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## EUROPEAN NEWS

## Bonn, Bundesbank urged not to endanger growth

BY ADRIAN DICKS IN BONN

THE West German Government and the Bundesbank should not be scared by the prospect of higher prices into taking restrictive measures that might endanger growth in 1980, a panel of independent economists recommended yesterday.

In their spring report on the economic outlook, the five leading West German economic research institutes said there should be no difficulty in achieving the goal of 4 per cent real growth of gross national product in 1979, despite the effects of last winter's steel stoppage and exceptionally bad weather.

Prices during the first half of this year are likely to be on average 3.5 per cent up on year ago, and during the second half, 4 per cent higher. This compares with a rise of 2.6 per cent for 1978.

The recovery is still gaining ground, according to the institute's joint working party, with increasing signs that new investment is being sustained by a more optimistic business climate, rather than by the

effects of official policies alone. Unemployment should decline to about 900,000, or 4 per cent, despite a bigger increase in the working population than in 1978.

Prices would not again jump as sharply as they had last winter after the shortfall in Iranian oil exports, the institutes predicted. But they left no doubt that the period of falling inflation rates is at an end for West Germany.

The main reasons for this included the rapid increase in money supply, the improved sales outlook for most industries, and the bottlenecks felt for some time in the building sector.

Perhaps the most significant factor was the blunting of import competition, following the more stable outlook on foreign exchange markets since measures were taken to stabilise the dollar last November and the European Monetary System was set up.

Other factors of crude oil or other raw materials might not rise significantly, the time was now past when West Germany could compensate for such price

increases in dollar terms because of the upward movement of the D-mark.

Import prices fell overall by 4.5 per cent in D-mark terms during 1978, but the report predicts a 3 per cent increase in 1979.

Export prospects are judged highly favourable in Western Europe and the OPEC countries other than Iran, while demand for West German goods from the U.S. is likely to weaken.

The report expresses understanding for the priority given by the Bundesbank to sound money policy, but it also stresses the need for a "stage one alarm" against inflation.

But the authors believe that maintenance of a steady course will prove more beneficial than any attempt to introduce an anti-cyclical monetary policy whose impact might well be felt in practice at precisely the wrong point in the cycle.

The institutes do not recommend any specific policy measures, but see the consolidation of public deficits, through a reduction of the borrowing requirement in relation to GNP, as a more pressing concern.

## Disputes threaten pollution control

By Brij Khindaria in Geneva

SUGGESTIONS for new international measures to combat pollution have become embroiled in major disputes between Eastern and Western European nations, and between the Nordic countries and other members of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

At the centre of the disputes is a three-year-old Soviet proposal calling for separate "pan-European congresses" to discuss environment, energy and transport in the ECE region, which comprises all European countries, the Soviet Union, the U.S. and Canada.

The proposals for energy and transport conferences failed to make headway against continuing Western opposition, although this has softened slightly on energy issues because of the prospects of oil shortages and high prices after the revolution in Iran.

But, on Soviet insistence, the ECE member nations last year agreed to carry forward preparations for calling a "high-level" meeting this year on protection of the environment. The groundwork was laid by a group of expert advisers to ECE governments who have also made suggestions on separate international conventions dealing with air pollution and pollution caused by technological processes.

For the first time in its 32-year history, the ECE's annual session broke up inconclusively last weekend because of a row between the Soviet Union and the Communist bloc in the planned high-level meeting.

The session resumes on April 23, but is likely to run into further trouble. The Community, which the Soviet Union does not recognise as an entity in matters other than trade, is insisting that it should be allowed to participate as such in the high-level meeting.

The dispute between Eastern and Western countries over the ECE's annual session has been the widest possible scope and should be a stepping stone to a larger "congress" which would presumably produce a Europe-wide treaty on environmental protection.

The East fears it might be left out of the mainstream of international co-operation in the West concerning low-pollution technologies. It also wants to ensure that European rivers should not be hopelessly polluted by the time they reach Eastern territories.

The East wants to be able to do a little bit of dumping, as it did at the Helsinki conference on security and co-operation in Europe, while making sure that Western anti-pollution standards do not become barriers to its trade and industrial co-operation with the West.

The West is trading prudently in a potentially explosive area, where any hasty regulation could mean huge increases in investment costs to reduce industrial pollution. It is unwilling to make any commitments which Governments might find difficult.

The Nordic countries have run into confrontation with several other Western nations because they insist that air pollution should be a key element in the high-level meeting's agenda.

The Scandinavians are especially worried about pollution brought to them through the air from outside their borders. Their main concern is about the growing level of sulphur compounds in the atmosphere. Sweden, for example, complained to the ECE's annual session about the serious damage to 20,000 of its lakes caused by acid collected in the atmosphere by rain water.

If no action is taken to combat the emission of sulphur compounds into the atmosphere, Swedish forests will grow at slower rates, ground water will be polluted by dangerous amounts of acid, and heavy metals will be bleached from the soil, making it less fertile.

But under pressure from other ECE members, the Nordic countries withdrew a proposal containing measures to combat air pollution over long distances caused by sulphur compounds.

## Fears over Italy's economic revival

BY PAUL BETTS IN ROME

MR. ALAN WHITTON, European director of the International Monetary Fund, is back in Rome on one of his periodic visits to review the state of the Italian economy. But in sharp contrast with Italy's painstaking negotiations for a \$500m loan with the IMF two years ago, the Italian monetary authorities have no intention of asking for new support from the fund, at this stage at least.

During the past two years, there has been a spectacular improvement of the economy with an overall balance of payments surplus of nearly £600m (£3.45bn) last year, continuing stability of the lira, a substantial increase in foreign exchange reserves, and a reduction of inflation from levels of more than 20 per cent to an annual rate of 12 per cent last year.

At the weekend, official figures indicated a sustained recovery in industrial output with an increase of 8.2 per cent in the volume of production last February compared with the same month last year, confirming the encouraging trend of the last quarter last year. Indeed, there has now also been an upward revision of last January's output figures showing an increase of 5.6 per cent over January 1978.

However, despite this overall improvement, there are growing anxieties that the situation could again deteriorate sharply. Retail price inflation is currently increasing above the 13 per cent mark, the impact of the renewal of a number of major national labour contracts threatens to act as a further stimulus to inflation, and the country's public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) risks becoming seriously out of hand.

Additional pressure on economic performance is also expected to come from the recent oil price increases. Sig. Bruno Visentini, the new Budget Minister in the caretaker Government of Sig. Giulio Andreotti and the chairman of the Olivetti mechanical engineering and electronics group, warned at the weekend that

wage and shorter working hours demands by trade unions were incompatible with the general target of containing the rise of labour costs, and prevent any real increases in wages over the next three years.

At the same time, labour unrest is spreading, eloquently reflecting the intransigent attitude of the labour rank-and-file in the present renewal of a series of three-year national labour contracts involving some 10m workers in the public and private sectors.

The current round of wage negotiations has been further soured by the country's general election campaign, which increasingly risks becoming focused on the key issue of whether or not the Communist Party should directly participate in any new government after the general election. On top of this there are divisions not only between the unions but also between the various categories of employers.

In the case of the unions, the leadership is increasingly being undermined by its more militant base, which is showing no signs of accepting its leadership's more moderate stand on wages. For their part, the employers are divided in that representatives of the public sector industries, under pressure from the main political parties, are anxious to reach a settlement with the unions before the elections, while private employers are adopting a much harder line.

There also appear to be divisions between employers in large industries and representatives of small and medium-sized companies. The former appear prepared to compromise on wages, while the latter remain intransigent on other labour requests involving shorter working hours, and a greater dialogue with the unions in future investment plans, particularly for the depressed south of the country. But small and medium-sized industrialists are seemingly firmly opposed to any real increases in wages but appear willing to compromise

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## Padua police round up terrorist suspects

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

THE Italian police have carried out a sweeping round-up of leading terrorist suspects, above all in the violence-ridden university city of Padua.

Anti-terrorist police carried out the first stage of a long-prepared operation at the weekend by arresting 15 top suspects, and issuing warrants for a dozen more on their wanted list.

The most spectacular raids have been in Padua. Among those taken into custody there was Sig. Antonio Negri, a lecturer at the political science faculty of the university, and considered the intellectual leader of the "Autonomia Operaia" (Workers' Freedom) extreme Left-wing organisation.

The charges brought against him and fellow detainees so far are the broad ones of insurrection against the State and of belonging to armed groups. But senior Rome magistrates have also been called in, and there is strong speculation that

further charges may be laid relating to the kidnapping and murder last year of Sig. Aldo Moro, the former Prime Minister.

If these insistent reports are borne out, it would mean that close links exist between the Red Brigades and the so-called "autonomous" groups, which are strongly rooted in the turbulent and frustrated world of Italian student life.

Meanwhile, police yesterday announced the capture of Chilean-born Sr. Juan Pallecarr Soto in the centre of Rome. Wanted for some two years, Sr. Soto is alleged to be a leader of the "Azovne Rivoluzionaria" (Revolutionary Action) terrorist group.

Although Padua magistrates stressed yesterday that the police swoop had been long prepared, its timing looks anything but fortuitous. It has been widely feared that the Italian general election campaign, full of public appearances by top politicians, would offer tempting targets

for a repeat of the Moro outrage.

In the city itself, where in the past three weeks two Communist-sympathising professors have been violently attacked by extremists, the atmosphere is said to be very tense. Further meetings and demonstrations have been called by an extremist leader in protest at the wave of arrests.

The caretaker Government of Sig. Giulio Andreotti, meanwhile, is expected to announce the election date today, after consultations with the Council of State. But it is still unclear whether the Prime Minister will be able to lead the Italian domestic poll with the European direct elections already set for June 10. If not, the most widely canvassed alternative would be a week earlier, on June 3.

The Bank of Italy last night ruled out any further easing of lending restrictions for commercial banks, in an effort to prevent the economic

recovery now underway provoking a runaway upsurge in inflation.

Ceilings for the expansion of eligible loans will remain at 18 per cent above the March 1978 baseline for July and a similar figure for September. This amounts to a maximum permitted lending growth of 16 per cent for the year to September.

The central bank said last night that a few months ago a loosening of curbs might reasonably have been expected. But now that expectations of inflation had increased, any such move could merely serve to finance a speculative wave of stock-building by companies.

Monetary authorities will review the credit position in September. In the meantime the maximum on loans exempted from restrictions will stay at £100m (£60,000). The latest Government estimates for this year provide

## Schmidt to see Carter in U.S.

BY JONATHAN CARR IN BONN

CHANCELLOR Helmut Schmidt of West Germany will hold talks with President Jimmy Carter in the U.S. in early June, ahead of the Western economic summit conference in Tokyo on June 28 and 29.

The idea for the meeting came before the accident at the Three-Mile Island nuclear plant near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, an incident which has placed a new shadow over West Germany's own nuclear programme.

The Harrisburg affair has thrown the energy problems of the West into still sharper relief. It is likely that they will be high on the agenda in the talks between Herr Schmidt and Mr. Carter.

Details of Herr Schmidt's visit are still being worked out, but it is understood the Chancellor will be receiving an honour at a U.S. university and making a speech.

West German officials are at

pains to stress the recent close contact between Herr Schmidt and Mr. Carter, particularly on the energy issue, on which the two have not always seen eye-to-eye.

Mr. Carter is understood to have informed Herr Schmidt of details of his new energy saving measures (which were welcomed by Bonn) before they were announced.

The Chancellor—at present visiting South America—has already passed on to Mr. Carter information about his talks last week with Brazilian leaders.

After those talks, Brazil and West Germany announced they planned to carry out in full their nuclear accord of 1975, in agreement strongly criticised by the U.S. on the grounds it could lead to further nuclear weapons proliferation.

The West Germans believe energy is emerging as one of the most urgent issues for the Tokyo summit.

This is partly because of the intensified public debate over nuclear safety and the continuing unrest in Iran (West Germany's main source of imported oil last year).

It is also because the debate over economic growth efforts has not emerged as acutely as it did before the Bonn summit last year, and because other matters, including trade and relations with the developing world, are being thrashed out adequately in other forums.

West Germany's own energy dilemma was underlined yesterday when Herr Gerhart Baum, the Interior Minister, said he believed there were circumstances in which the country might have to give up its option of nuclear power.

In an interview with the weekly magazine Der Spiegel, Herr Baum said the problems at Harrisburg had caused him to pose particularly critical questions about nuclear energy—and had made him open to a new judgment.

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## Austria delays decision on EMS

BY DAVID MARSH

A DECISION on whether Austria will become formally associated with the European Monetary System (EMS) will probably not be made until after the Austrian and British general elections next month, according to Dr. Hannes Androsch, the Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Finance Minister.

In an interview in Vienna at the weekend, Dr. Androsch said Austria would continue with its autonomous policy of linking the schilling to the Deutsche Mark and hence to the other currencies in the EMS. This was in line with the association that Austria had maintained with the European currency since 1970. Austria, however, would also like to put its relationship with the EMS on to a more formal footing by taking up some sort of "observer status" he said.

This would allow Austria to play some part in EMS consultations and information-sharing and would also be in the interests of greater European integration by showing that "Europe is more than just the Nine"—had helped to improve real incomes and spurred necessary structural changes in the economy.

Austrian inflation last year was down to 3.6 per cent and Dr. Androsch said that, despite the oil price increase, he hoped the figure could be reduced further in 1979 to below 3.5 per cent. This would roughly match the German inflation rate. Austria planned to borrow abroad this year no more than was necessary to offset the current account deficit, which Dr. Androsch thought would be less than the latest official forecast of Sch 15bn (£525m).

Dr. Androsch said that no one in Austria now doubted that the hard schilling policy was the right one. The close link with the Deutsche Mark, which he described as "flexible, but not slavish"—had helped to improve real incomes and spurred necessary structural changes in the economy.

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## Strikes disrupt Spanish resorts

BY ROBERT GRAHAM IN MADRID

TOURISTS ON the Costa del Sol are facing an Easter week of disruptions, as a result of strikes by workers in hotels and restaurants in protest at the conduct of wage negotiations. The Hotel Owners' Association and Union officials, however, gave differing versions of the effect of the industrial action.

A spokesman for the hotel owners told the Financial Times that the strike was having only a limited impact. He said that 80 per cent of hotels, bars and restaurants were operating with no bookings cancelled.

However, a spokesman for the

main union, the Communist-controlled Confederation of Workers' Commissions, said the strike was 80 per cent effective around Marbella and Estepona, but in the Malaga area on Sunday, police had made several arrests and forcibly opened some establishments.

The hotel owners maintain that the strike is being conducted deliberately in Easter week to obtain the maximum effect. They also say that, because wage talks had earlier reached an impasse, and a Government settlement had been imposed, they had no new offer

to make.

The unions nevertheless claim that the Government settlement had been hurriedly imposed before they had been able to strike, so depriving them of a major bargaining counter. They believe the imposed settlement to be illegal.

The settlement centres on a pay offer of Pta 25,000 (£178) a month minimum wage, but excluding new social security benefits, which the unions want included. This is the third year running that Costa del Sol hotel workers have taken strike action.

Giles Merritt, in Brussels, on NATO interest in Peking's armaments needs

## Vietnam sortie showed need to modernise war machine

THE RECENT border conflict between China and Vietnam was observed with undisguised interest by NATO analysts. One commented at the Alliance's headquarters here that they had been watching from the sidelines "but not from the periphery."

For to the military planners and political experts at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation nothing that has an effect on the Soviet Union can be counted as peripheral. A less readily acknowledged factor is the important question of Chinese armament needs that have been underlined during the fighting.

NATO's 15-nation membership also spans almost all the major arms producers now open to Peking, and there is a delicate balance between bilateral deals on military hardware that they can strike and the Alliance's wider needs.

NATO chiefs still have Moscow's advice on the long-term consequences of equipping China ringing in their ears. But selling armaments to the People's Liberation Army (PLA), it is felt, will not turn the world's largest military machine into one of the most potent or aggressive.

China's army, according to NATO observers, has progressed little since the Korean war almost 30 years ago, and its technology remains that of the 1950s. The arms Peking seeks to replace are the obsolete T-34 tanks and MIG-17/19 aircraft dating from before the split with Moscow, which would bring the PLA into the early 1980s.

The present generation of weaponry, with its emphasis on electronics and lasers, is something that only China and its 3.5m-strong regular army may not be able to aspire until

toward the end of the century. At the heart of China's problems in developing an army that would deny the USSR its present overwhelming military initiative along the Sino-Soviet border lies the Cultural Revolution of 10 years ago. Its dismantling of the education system has meant that China at present has no emerging generation of scientists and technologists.

"Put at its simplest," comments one NATO-based observer, "they are hard put to man an old-fashioned military radar installation, let alone modern electronic surveillance system."

The Chinese answer to the problem comes in two parts. Peking is conscious of the fact that even were it not missing a whole generation of technical cadres to officer an updated army, buying armaments inevitably keeps a country up to 15

years behind those countries that develop them. One of the aims of China's programme for sending its students in their thousands to overseas universities is believed to be the acceleration of the day when China can innovate its own weapons technology.

One point that is underscored is that the few competent scientists available in the aftermath of the Cultural Revolution, were concentrated on China's military nuclear project.

In the meantime, there is a complementary drive to stop as many of the gaps in China's defences as is possible through purchasing hardware and know-how. The NATO view is that strictly for defensive weapons.

Cost is an important factor, for while Peking's military spending has reversed direction and now appears to be rising

above 3 per cent of gross national product, the cash amounts are not large. "I would guess," said one Chinese watcher at NATO, "that even Canadian spending on defence is 20 times greater per capita."

Topping the list, following the conflict with Vietnam and with an eye to the tank terrain along much of the Soviet border, is an effective anti-tank missile. Next comes a modern battlefield tank.

China reportedly is negotiating with France to extend its buying of Q T anti-tank missiles to include the technology. On such expensive items as tanks, however, it is unclear whether the Chinese will opt to buy modern ones—such as the French AMX-30—in their hundreds or will decide that such a comparatively small nucleus of modern armour is not worthwhile.

With military spending being kept in tandem with industrial

development as Peking's priorities, the Chinese authorities are faced constantly with such dilemmas.

Versatile combat-reconnaissance aircraft, such as the 200 Harriers that provoked Russian indignation, are badly needed, but so too is a modern, rapid-firing standard infantry rifle to equip China's militia and reservists.

These rival needs appear to lie behind the observation made by one weapons procurement specialist that "The Chinese never seem to know what they want or what they will use to pay for it."

Equally important is the fact that Western arms producers are also divided and undecided. The U.S. does not sell, but recently made it plain that it does not oppose sales of defensive weapons by other nations.

Canada does not sell for military purposes, but probably would be unsurprised if some of its sophisticated communications equipment were eventually sold to China.

The West Germans appear reluctant despite the willingness of France, the UK and Italy to

negotiate sales. Perhaps the most reassuring point is the one insisted on by NATO experts. What counts is not the hardware China is trying to buy but that which it has shown no interest in—such as long-range bombers.

Chinese tanks in formation during manoeuvres.

Chinese tanks in formation during manoeuvres.



## Rhodesia polling starts today

BY TONY HAWKINS IN SALISBURY

VOTING in Rhodesia's majority-rule elections starts today with four contests on the white-only voters roll between supporters of Mr. Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front and little-known independent candidates.

Under the 1979 constitution, agreed between the ruling Rhodesian Front and the domestic nationalist parties, 28 seats in the 100-seat assembly have been reserved for whites. In 16 of those seats, Rhodesian Front candidates, including Mr. Smith, have been returned unopposed.

In a further eight seats, the electoral procedure provides for a run-off between 16 white candidates all of them nominated by the Front, in indirect elections in which the 72 black MPs and 20 directly-elected white MPs will constitute an electoral college. The run-off vote is to be held next month.

This leaves four contested white seats for which about 25,000 white, coloured (mixed blood) and Asian voters are due to vote today. A relatively low poll is expected in the four constituencies—two in Salisbury one in

Bulawayo and one in Umtali—with the Smith candidates expected to win easily, thereby giving the Front all 28 white seats.

Voting for the 72 black seats starts next Tuesday with polling booths staying open until Saturday evening. Nearly 3m voters, all but 140,000 of them black, are entitled to vote. A massive security operation is in operation with most white men aged between 18 and 50 called up to counter threats from the Nkomo-Mugabe Patriotic Front to attack the 2,000 polling booths and to disrupt the poll.

As polling approaches, officials are increasingly confident of a good turnout. A month ago, officials were saying they would be satisfied with 40 per cent, but they are now talking confidently of securing a poll of between 50 per cent and 60 per cent.

Voting will be on a proportional-representation basis for the 72 black seats. The country has been divided into eight provinces, each of which has been allocated a stated number of seats. Within each province, seats will be allocated in propor-

tion to the votes cast for each party.

Five black parties are fighting these seats—Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council, the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole's Zanu, Chief Jeremiah Chirau's Zuppo, Chief Ndiweni's United National Federal Party, and the small and little-known National Democratic Union.

Bishop Muzorewa is expected to win at least 60 per cent of the black vote which would give him a minimum of 43 seats in the 100-seat assembly. The Bishop is anxious to win at least 51 seats, thereby giving his party an overall majority.

Mr. Sithole has strong support in the eastern districts of Rhodesia and in parts of the Midlands and South-East. He is talking confidently of winning the poll, but observers believe he may win ten seats or less.

Chief Chirau and Chief Ndiweni are unknown quantities. Chief Chirau believes he is picking up support from younger blacks who favour an all-party conference, since the Chief, despite his broadly conservative policies, is the one domestic black politician most committed to all-party talks

with Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mugabe. His party may also attract a significant white vote.

Chief Ndiweni is the standard bearer for the Ndebele people, whose popular leader is Joshua Nkomo. If there is a good turnout in Nkomo country in western Rhodesia, Chief Ndiweni is likely to be the main beneficiary. A more likely prospect is a very low poll.

It is conceivable, though unlikely, that Mr. Smith's Rhodesian Front, with 28 seats, will be the largest single party, and as such entitled to claim the post of Prime Minister in the national unity Government that is to be established next month.

A substantial victory for Bishop Muzorewa is more likely. But in terms of last November's coalition agreement, the first black Prime Minister is required to allocate Cabinet posts to every party that wins at least five seats.

Thus Mr. Smith, with 28 seats, is certain of five Cabinet posts in the first majority-rule Government, despite the fact that the Bishop could well emerge from the poll with an overall majority and in no need of a coalition.

## Ohira gains in Japan's local elections

By Richard Hanson in Tokyo

MR. MASAYOSHI OHIRA, Japan's Prime Minister, appears to have strengthened his hand considerably in local elections which drew back into the conservative-centrist political fold the governorships of Japan's two largest cities, Tokyo and Osaka, after years of reformist control.

A patchwork of coalitions put together by Mr. Ohira's ruling Liberal Democratic Party swept conservative and middle-of-the-road candidates to victory in all 15 prefectural governorships at stake in nationwide local elections on Sunday. It was the LDP's first political test since Mr. Ohira took office in December last year.

More important to Mr. Ohira, perhaps, was the party's solid showing in elections to local assemblies, where the LDP gained and the leading opposition group, the Japan Socialist Party, lost a large number of seats—mostly to the Japan Communist Party which managed to recover to the levels of four years ago.

The results set the stage for Mr. Ohira to dissolve the present Diet (parliament) and to call for the first general election since the LDP suffered a serious setback late in 1976. It is expected an election will take place in October or November.

The gubernatorial races showed all the signs of Mr. Ohira's greatest asset—an ability to draw opposing groups together. His consensus-seeking style (pursued with enormous patience, his other great virtue) led to joint support of candidates by the LDP, the Buddhist-oriented Komeito and the middle-of-the-road Democratic Socialists (DSP).

### Rupee devalued

The Reserve Bank of India yesterday announced a devaluation of the rupee by 2.04 per cent against sterling. K. K. Sharma writes from New Delhi. The announcement follows a 1.8 per cent devaluation against sterling last month and brings the new middle rate against the pound to 17.15 rupees as against 16.8 rupees.

## Israel accuses Egyptians of peace treaty violation

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

ISRAEL yesterday accused Egypt of violating the spirit and the letter of the peace agreement signed last month between the two countries by declaring that it might join a war started by Syria to recover the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

This follows reports that Dr. Mustapha Khalil, the Egyptian Premier, said that if Syria attempted to liberate the Golan Heights this would be considered a defensive war and that the joint Arab defence pact to which Egypt is a signatory could be invoked.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman at his regular briefing in Jerusalem yesterday said that if these reports were accurate, it would be cause for concern in Israel.

The spokesman noted that Dr. Khalil had called on Arab oil producers to use their economic power to force Israel to withdraw from other occupied Arab territories. He also pointed out that Dr. Boutros Ghali, the Minister of State at the Foreign Ministry, had said that Egypt

might give assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The spokesman expressed surprise that Egypt should be making such statements before the peace treaty had even been ratified in the Egyptian Parliament. He did not know if the development would lead to a delay in the exchange of the instruments of ratification, now scheduled for next Monday. But he said that Israel would take "political and diplomatic steps as required" without specifying what those steps might be.

Since there is no constant daily contact between Egypt and Israel, Jerusalem may ask the U.S. to clarify in Cairo the implications of the latest turn of events.

Roger Matthews reports from Cairo: The Egyptian people are to be asked to vote on the peace treaty with Israel, but it is not clear whether this will be arranged before the instruments of ratification have been exchanged. President Sadat is

expected to announce a referendum later this week when he makes another speech outlining plans for introducing "greater democracy" and "eliminating all the causes of complaint by the people."

Cairo newspapers said yesterday that the constitution would be amended to allow for the creation of more political parties. It would also provide for the Press to become "the fourth power in the state" while clearly defining the "values of society" to which every citizen will be committed.

Leaflets expressing opposition to the peace treaty with Israel and Egypt's growing economic dependence on the U.S. have been seized by police during a raid on the offices of the small Left-wing Unionist Progressive Party which has two Members of Parliament. Officials said the leaflets aimed at inciting the people against the Government by casting doubts on President Sadat's efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace.

## Western journalists 'shot as mercenaries' in Uganda

NAIROBI—The Ugandan Foreign Ministry said yesterday that four foreigners had been captured and shot dead in Uganda. This appears to confirm reports that four Western journalists had been executed.

The Ministry's statement said: "Four foreign mercenaries, informed and armed, have been shot dead after coming into Uganda in a boat over Lake Victoria."

The announcement came the day after reports that two Swedish and two German journalists had been captured and executed in Kampala after trying to sneak into Uganda by boat from Kenya.

Meanwhile, troops loyal to President Idi Amin were reported fighting back with new strength yesterday against invading Tanzanians and Ugandan rebels in the southern suburbs of the capital.

Residents said more troops and armoured cars were moving through the Ugandan capital than had been seen since army units mutinied and disbanded several weeks ago in the face of the invasion.

Ugandan exile sources said President Amin had formed a blocking force of up to 3,000 soldiers on the road leading south from Kampala to the rebel-held international airport at Entebbe.

The force was reported to be made up of the Bongo reserve battalion of Nubians, drafted from the President's native region in the north-west, and what was left of the Ugandan Malire regiment.

They were drawn up mainly in the Lubowa coffee plantation, five miles south of Kampala. The plantation had been held by pro-Amin Libyan troops until they were evacuated through northern air bases last week.

Kampala residents said sporadic artillery shells were continuing yesterday in the plantation area. Heavy fighting had been reported throughout Saturday and Sunday.

Diplomats said the invaders had captured the town of Fort Portal, close to the Zaire border, and now controlled the whole of western Uganda. Agencies

## Miners walk out after riot at new S. Africa gold mine

BY QUENTIN PEEL IN JOHANNESBURG

ALMOST 4,000 black mine workers at South Africa's newest gold mine, Anglo American's R133m (\$105m) Elandrand operation, stopped work yesterday on the eve of the mine's official opening, following a weekend riot.

Several hundred miners went on the rampage on Sunday night, smashing furniture and windows, and attempting to set buildings on fire in the new "model" compound for migrant workers. Hostel buildings, a changing room, a shop and a bar were damaged, as well as a computer controlled clock-in machine at the pit head.

An Anglo American spokesman said yesterday that the official opening, to be performed by Dr. Herman W. Abs, honorary president of Deutsche Bank and a personal friend of Mr. Harry Oppenheimer, the chairman of Anglo American, would still go ahead. But a planned underground tour might have to be cancelled.

Only 108 of the mine's 4,080 black employees reported for

work yesterday morning, and afterwards several hundred held a protest meeting on the mine's football field. Police said they were "fairly peaceful but in a defiant mood."

There was no immediately apparent cause of the riot, the company spokesman said, although reports from the mine, near Carletonville on the West Rand, said the men were in dispute over their bonuses. By not reporting for work yesterday the men are automatically in breach of their contracts and run the risk of being summarily sent home to their tribal homelands.

The riot is highly embarrassing to Anglo American, not only because today's opening was to be a ceremony with hundreds of guests, but also because Elandrand has been a model operation. The estimated R133m capital cost is R17m within the R200 estimate, and the mine was brought into production last December, more than two years ahead of schedule.

## Pakistan denies raids across Afghan border

BY CHRIS SHERWELL IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN has denied as "completely false and baseless" allegations by Afghanistan that Pakistani troops raided four police posts across the border on Saturday.

The denial came amid continuing reports of fighting in Afghanistan's mountainous eastern provinces of Kunar, Nooristan and Paktia. The alleged incident coincided with a visit to Kabul by General Alexei Alexeyevich, the Soviet Union's First Deputy Minister of Defence.

According to Radio Kabul, a large number of Pakistani troops crossed into Paktia in the guise of Afghans and suffered heavy losses when they tried to attack the police posts.

Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Ministry yesterday described the allegation as "preposterous". It pointed out that Pakistan had a policy of good neighbourliness and had not retaliated when Afghanistan shelled Pakistani territory, nor when its air force violated Pakistan's airspace.

It is suspected here that units

of the Afghan armed forces may have suffered reverses in recent days in Paktia. The Soviet general's visit to Kabul is believed to be aimed at assessing Afghanistan's security situation.

One of the Afghan Moslem groups opposed to the Government of Mr. Nur Mohammad Taraki claimed on Sunday that its supporters attacked the police posts. The group also reported continued fighting in Nooristan and Kunar.

That information is supported by other reports available in Pakistan and from Kabul. The Taraki Government appears to be stretched severely in these areas.

AP-DJ reports from Tokyo: Japan has exchanged Notes with Afghanistan promising \$255,000 in grants to help Kabul finance its economic development programme and to improve standards of living.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry said yesterday the Notes were exchanged in Kabul on Sunday.

## UAE troops to leave Lebanon

By Ihsan Hijazi in Beirut

THE United Arab Emirates have decided to withdraw the UAE battalion which has been serving with the Arab League deterrent force in Lebanon.

Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan, President of the UAE, told Dr. Selim al-Hoss, the Lebanese Prime Minister, of the decision in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Dr. Hoss is touring Gulf states to seek Arab support for Lebanon and financial aid for its reconstruction.

The UAE unit of about 600 men is expected to leave by April 28 when the present mandate of the Arab force expires.

Saudi Arabia withdrew its 1,200 soldiers last month. The recall of the UAE contingent will leave Syria as the sole contributor to the Arab force, which was set up 24 years ago after the Lebanese civil war.

The force mandate has been extended by the Arab League for three months until July 28. But the extension may not be sufficient because Lebanon's armed forces will not be ready to take over law-and-order duties throughout the country by that date.

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## AMERICAN NEWS

## Fed urged to raise U.S. interest rates

BY JOHN WYLES IN NEW YORK

PUBLIC AND private pressure on the Federal Reserve Board to boost U.S. interest rates appears to be growing, following indications that unexpected strength in the economy is hindering attempts to curb inflation.

Government figures published on Friday showing that unemployment remained at its lowest level for four years in March and that consumer credit expanded at a 14 per cent annual rate in February, are being cited as evidence that the economy is still too strong to allow a significant easing of monetary policy.

The Senate banking committee has issued a report which is said to be supported by Mr. Michael Blumenthal, the Treasury Secretary, calling on the Fed to tighten credit "until significant progress has been made in reducing inflation."

The Fed's open market committee is to meet to decide its interest rate strategy for the coming month and reports that it will be urged by the Administration to boost short-term rates. The Fed has not altered its target for the Fed funds rate, the dominant short-term interest rate in the money markets, since last December, partly, it is believed, to try to drive the economy into a recession.

But the strength of the dollar and hopes that the Administration's anti-inflation pay and price guidelines would start to rein in the rate of price increases have also affected the Fed's stance. In addition, the Central Bank has witnessed a virtual halt in the growth of the U.S. money supply and has therefore had even less reason to firm up interest rates.



THE CHEMICAL TRAIN after being derailed at Crestview. One wagon, containing carbolic acid, caught fire after an explosion, setting two other wagons alight. Another wagon carrying sulphur sent up dense yellow fumes.

## Poisonous cloud threatens towns

CIVIL DEFENCE forces stood by yesterday to evacuate thousands more people from towns in the path of a poisonous cloud billowing from the wreckage of a goods train, loaded with dangerous chemicals and derailed near Crestview, North Florida, at the weekend.

Some 5,000 people have already been moved to safety from homes and camp sites in an 80-square-mile area surrounding the disaster.

Thirteen of 30 chemical-laden wagons left the tracks as the Louisville and Nashville train crossed a trestle bridge over the Yellow River three miles from Crestview. Yesterday, officials were watching closely for any change in wind direction, which would mean putting further evacuation plans into effect.

Police said the chemicals carried in the train included ammonia, acetone, alcohol, sulphur and carbolic acid.

One wagon, believed to be carrying carbolic acid, had exploded and caught fire, setting two other wagons ablaze. One of the other wagons carrying sulphur began pouring dense yellow fumes into the air. The cause of the derailment was not immediately known.

In Crestview, emergency centres were set up, while police and repair gangs tried to stop the spread of the toxic chemicals.

Approaching thunderstorms were last night threatening a wind-shift that would push the fumes towards the town, which has a population of about 8,000.

So far, only one person has

been injured. He was taken to hospital for observation, after inhaling dangerous fumes while trekking through the woods.

"Chlorine gas is starting to smell pretty bad—burning noses," a Civil Defence worker stationed near Crestview said.

"On a scale of one-to-10, this accident rates pretty high," Mr. George Moeln, chief of the Environmental Protection Agency's hazardous spill section in Atlanta, added.

Several accidents have occurred on this stretch of rail line in recent years. Just over 13 months ago, a tanker wagon exploded, sending clouds of chlorine gas over the countryside, killing eight people.

## Mexico uses oil cash for industrial expansion

By William Chislett in Mexico

THE MEXICAN Government has announced its long-awaited national industrial development plan which specifies how the country's rapidly increasing oil wealth will be used. The plan envisages a large-scale expansion of industry rather than using the money to improve inadequate social services.

Mexico has the sixth largest proven oil reserves in the world, with 40bn. barrels. Britain's proved reserves are 19bn and Saudi Arabia's 187bn. Pemex, the state-owned oil monopoly, earned almost \$2bn (\$1bn) last year in exports.

The plan confirms that the present oil production of 1.5m b/d will be leveraged off at 2.5m b/d in 1980 and that export earnings will be held to about \$5bn a year until 1982 to avoid overheating the economy. The valves will not be opened up to satisfy the needs of countries like the U.S. before 1982.

It is the Government's intention to use the oil revenue to widen greatly the structure of the economy, so its dependence on oil revenue will drop from 35 per cent of total exchange earnings in 1982 to 14 per cent in 1990.

The plan for the years 1979-1982, when the term of office of President Lopez Portillo ends, embodies his thinking. It is the first coherent policy on how the oil wealth should be used and also for the first time, it goes beyond the period of an incumbent administration and envisages some industrial strategy up until 1990.

## Full effect

Previous economic plans paralleled the staggered presidential terms of office. The Government now feels that planning has to be made on a longer basis if the full effect of the petrodollars on the country's economy is to be properly gauged, and the risk of going down the inflationary road of other oil-producing countries, like Venezuela, is to be avoided.

This implies that the next government may well follow the guidelines of the plan, although such things are unpredictable in Mexico. It is recognised by the Government that unemployment in Mexico—population 60m—is the "most important obstacle to be overcome." But it is hoping that by using oil money to expand industry rather than to tackle the pressing lack of homes, schools and medical services, this will lead to the creation of an increasing number of jobs. Unemployment and underemployment are estimated at 40 per cent.

The plan predicts an average 7 per cent a year GDP growth rate until 1982 and possibly as much as 10 per cent after that. It also sets investment of \$37.8bn for decentralised government agencies between 1979 and 1982; \$72m between 1983 and 1986 and \$113m between 1987 and 1990.

## Petrochemicals

Priority goes to oil, steel, electricity, capital goods, agro-industry, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles, shoes and cars.

Decentralisation is a prominent part of the plan with the creation of 11 new development zones, including four development ports—Tampico and Coatzacoalcas on the Gulf Coast and Las Truchas and Salina Cruz on the Pacific.

Fiscal incentives will no longer be given to new private industry in Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey. Instead it will go to the new investors in the 11 zones. Tax credits of 25 per cent will be granted and the costs of one in every five jobs will be financed.

Those industries investing in the development-poor areas will also get 30 per cent cheaper electricity, natural gas and fuel oil, which are all Government monopolies.

The Government estimates that this will create on average 800,000 new jobs a year from now until 1982. This is still 200,000 short of meeting the demand for about 800,000 new jobs a year.

But the impact on the balance of payments current account will be considerable. Instead of accumulating a current account surplus of \$3.2bn between 1979 and 1982, a deficit of \$2bn is now predicted as a result of the massive expenditure of the oil revenue.

## Foreign debt

This figure is felt to be a perfectly acceptable one and, as the Government has already said, it does not intend to use the oil money to reduce greatly the public foreign debt which at present stands at about \$26bn. Rather, the maturity structure will be improved to reduce the short-term proportion.

By the year 2000, Mexico's population will be more than 100m. The country does not produce nearly enough food to support itself and the plan draws a gloomy conclusion: if agricultural production fails to rise by 3 per cent a year—the figure needed just to keep up with the population increase.

If the impoverished agricultural sector does not meet that target then in 1982 about 21 per cent of the petrodollars will go to pay for goods imports and in 1990 54 per cent.

## Brazil to impose drastic curbs in inflation fight

BY DIANA SMITH IN RIO DE JANEIRO

CONFIRMATION THAT Brazil's monthly inflation rate rose to 5.8 per cent in March—the highest since March 1964—has caused consternation as 1978 was supposed to be the year when inflation could be reduced to an annual 35 per cent.

The Government has cut spending, intensified agricultural production, and restricted foreign borrowing, one of the main causes of pressure on the money supply, to pursue that aim.

The principal causes of the March rise are held to be food prices, including an increase of 110 per cent in the price of rice, and building costs.

Mr. Carlos Rischbieter, the new Treasury Minister, has said that there is no ideal reason for the inflation increase. He added that, if he had his way, price speculators would be thrown into jail.

Other Ministers have now confirmed that existing laws may be used to punish middle-

men, who shortchange producers and overcharge the public. Since early 1978, droughts, unusual rains, floods and other problems have assailed Brazilian agriculture, and middlemen have taken advantage of these difficulties to push up food prices.

The Government intends to announce a drastic package of anti-inflation measures before Easter and is reported to have deliberately delayed the announcement until the holiday to give the Brazilian public time to meditate on the tightness that will follow.

Mr. Cesar Cals, the Minister of Mines and Energy, has said that the Carajas iron ore project is to be put back into production immediately. By 1984 Brazil's iron ore production would otherwise have levelled off at 60.9m tonnes a year, whereas demand, nationally and internationally will have risen to 87.3m tonnes a year.

## Nicaragua devalues

MANAGUA — Nicaragua yesterday devalued its currency, the cordoba, by 22.3 per cent, giving an exchange rate of nine cordobas to the U.S. dollar, the Central Bank announced.

The rate had been set at seven cordobas to the dollar for the past 40 years. The announcement followed a visit here by an International Monetary Fund delegation to study the country's economy.

Meanwhile, President Anastasio Somoza's air force bombed Left-wing guerrillas in Northern Nicaragua who had reportedly shot down a government aircraft. The bombing followed the President's departure for the U.S. for his children's school holidays.

At least three Government aircraft were reported to have attacked suspected camps of the Sandinista National Liberation Front near Esteli, 80 miles north of Managua, on Sunday. A World War II vintage C-47, armed with machine-guns, had been shot down by the guerrillas. Some guardsmen were reported killed in the fighting.

The Sandinistas led a two-week uprising against the Somoza family dictatorship last September. The National Guard crushed the rebellion, and an estimated 1,500 people were killed, but thousands of guerrillas and their civilian supporters escaped to Costa Rica.

President Somoza and a daughter left on his private aircraft at the weekend for a scheduled holiday in the U.S. They flew first to Topeka, Kansas, where the President's younger son, Julio, is at Washington University, and were expected to fly to Miami yesterday.

## Canadian nuclear check

BY VICTOR MACKIE IN OTTAWA

THE Canadian Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) has ordered an immediate review of reactor designs in the wake of the nuclear reactor accident at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The AECB announced yesterday that it has received from its U.S. counterpart, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, enough information about the accident to order all operators of the 20 CANDU pressurised heavy water nuclear reactors to report within seven days on whether it could happen here.

Assessment is to be made of the reliability of steam generator feed water supplies; the availability of back-up cooling systems; and whether the routine and emergency operating procedures are adequate.

Mr. Alastair Gillespie, the Energy Minister, said yesterday:

"It is important that a prompt and detailed analysis of the unfortunate incident at the Three Mile Island plant be made in the context of the Canadian nuclear power programme."

Mr. Bob Blackburn, Secretary of the AECB, said: "There are no absolute guarantees that a similar type of accident cannot happen with a CANDU reactor."

In Montreal, a Hydro Quebec spokesman said steam generators in several CANDU nuclear power plants under construction are defective and could leak radioactive heavy water unless costly repairs are made. Reactors at Gentilly, Quebec, Pickering, Ontario and Pointe Lepreau, New Brunswick, contain faulty tubing which may have to be replaced.

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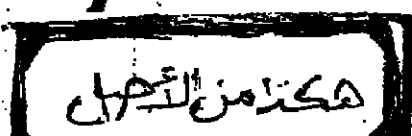
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# TOP OF THE LEAGUE

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Vehicle production in Britain in 1978	
<b>BL</b>	<b>743,103</b>
Ford	430,879
Chrysler	214,098
General Motors	201,484

Source SMMT

Exports in 1977 (Latest available Industry figures)	
<b>BL</b>	<b>365,128</b>
Ford	221,983
Chrysler	132,963
General Motors	70,714

Source SMMT

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## WORLD TRADE NEWS

## Iran still wants Airbus but will renegotiate order

BY SIMON HENDERSON IN TEHRAN

IRAN AIR has returned its two Airbus A300s to the European manufacturers six months before their lease expires. But the airline is still expressing its long term intention to partially equip its fleet with Airbus.

The two aircraft had been leased, complete with a West German maintenance crew, prior to the delivery of six Airbus A300s worth \$250m over the next few years with options for three more.

The aircraft have been returned because the slow revival in passenger traffic since the two month strike prior to the February revolution has prevented full utilisation of the Airbus. Iran Air is able to meet demand on its domestic and regional routes with its existing Boeing 727s and 737s.

In an interview with Financial Times, Mr. Houshang Tajadod, the newly appointed head of Iran Air, said that earlier reports that the Airbus order had been cancelled were incorrect.

The airline is only seeking to revise the contracts, Mr. Tajadod said.

Iran Air wants to change the delivery date of the Airbus and also revise the number of aircraft to be bought, he explained. The airline still believed that the Airbus was needed for its regional and

domestic routes, but instead of six aircraft only four or five would be purchased. Mr. Tajadod added that the purchasing agreement for five Boeing 747s had not been cancelled either.

Since the revolution Iran Air has been hit by a ban on travelling by adult Iranian males which has only just been relaxed, as well as the sharp drop in business travellers to Iran.

Mr. Tajadod said business had not returned to previous levels but as far as he was concerned the airline was operating normally.

## Mitsui seeks partners

BY RICHARD HANSON IN TOKYO

GOVERNMENT participation will help stabilise the situation. At the same time expanding the participation to a broad range of companies would give the project more of a "national project" flavour, spreading the risk.

At present, Mitsui is still sounding out other Japanese companies. One proposal under consideration would increase the capitalisation of the Iran joint venture company, Iran Japan Petrochemical Corporation, to ¥200bn (¥457m) from ¥100bn (¥228m) to facilitate the expanded participation.

The Mitsui group of companies, which is the Japanese partner in the joint venture with Iran, feel that Japanese

normally. He still intended that routes to the Far East and to Los Angeles should be opened up eventually, if not as early as originally planned.

The idea of a new civil airport for Tehran, 25 miles south of the city, was, however, a "dead duck" in his view. New terminals at the present Mehrabad Airport could absorb the growth in traffic and in the longer term the possibility was being considered of taking over the other side of the airfield, at present used by the Iranian Air Force.

## Sweden negotiates oil deal with Mexico

By William Duffell in Stockholm

SWEDEN HAS negotiated an agreement in principle with Mexico for the supply of 3.5m tonnes of oil a year from 1981.

The deal was agreed during a visit last week to Mexico by Mr. Håkan Carlsson, Sweden's Trade Minister. Final details will be worked out when Mr. Carlsson visits Mexico in June.

The price and type of oil remain to be negotiated but the Mexicans stressed that Sweden could not expect to receive only the lighter qualities, Mr. Carlsson said.

The question of whether the oil should be refined in Mexico or Sweden is also still open.

Mr. Carlsson was accompanied by 14 executives from leading Swedish export companies. A commission has been set up to further trade between the two countries.

Last year Sweden exported goods worth SKr 420m (£47m) to Mexico but took only SKr 70m in return. About 20 Swedish companies have branches in Mexico with annual sales of around SKr 1.3bn.

## France-Egypt co-operation accord signed

PARIS — France and Egypt have signed a \$95m (£45m) economic and technical co-operation agreement following a week of negotiations, the chief of the Egyptian delegation said yesterday.

Abdelaziz Zahedi said the pact, signed on Saturday, calls for installation of a French air traffic control system at Egyptian airports, and French participation in improving Cairo's urban transport system and reorganising the Egyptian customs administration.

France also will build a sulphuric acid factory in Egypt and supply turbines and relay stations for the Egyptian power network.

A separate agreement calls for France to lend Egypt \$27m to expand its sugar refineries. French wholesalers intend to increase the volume of orders for all types of goods to foreign suppliers in March and April following the decline observed between November and February, according to the National Statistics Institute in Paris.

## KENYA-TANZANIA BORDER DISPUTE

## Uganda war impedes solution

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS AT reopening the Kenya-Tanzania border and at resolving the long-standing trade differences straining relations between the two countries have been further set back by the current fighting in neighbouring Uganda.

Diplomats say the two countries had been close to a compromise, thanks largely to pressure from the World Bank, but the war in Uganda has again soured relations between Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania closed the border in February, 1977, because of deteriorating trade relations within the East African Community, the customs union that linked Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in a kind of regional Common Market. The Community finally split up in June, and the bitterness that resulted from it remains one of the fundamental factors affecting relations among the former members.

It took a lot of arm-twisting by the World Bank, the East African Community's biggest creditor, to get all three parties to agree to the appointment of a mediator to sort out the wreckage of the Community. Dr. Victor Umbricht, a Swiss, took on the job in January, 1978, and sent a team of experts to all three countries to make an inventory of the assets and liabilities of the Community.

Dr. Umbricht's report, which is expected to be ready by June or July, will serve as the basis for future negotiations. Negotiations which cannot take place until there is a government in Kampala.

The fighting in Uganda has emphasised the gulf dividing the two countries to the point where Tanzania has accused Kenya of helping President Idi Amin stay in power. Kenya has strongly denied the accusations, but observers say Kenya would certainly oppose

having another hostile neighbour state, allied to Tanzania, on its borders.

But the possibility, also, has been raised that in return for Kenya's recognition of what ever government is installed in Kampala, the Tanzanians would reopen the border. However, many agree that the objections to doing so in Dar es Salaam are still very strong, as much for political reasons as for the certainty that Tanzania would continue to run a massive trade deficit with Kenya.

The team appointed by Dr. Umbricht did add that all three

owed the World Bank \$173m, of which about \$18m was undischarged. In addition there was money owed to foreign governments, including \$8.1m to the British.

But a central impediment to the recovery of the Community is Kenya's continued standing as the strongest trading partner of the three countries.

Before the breakup, it was widely acknowledged that the benefits of the association, though unevenly distributed, outweighed the liabilities. But it was generally thought that if the market was to survive,

The World Bank wants to see the Tanzania-Kenya trade and border dispute resolved, but many observers feel that local political and economic considerations, aggravated by the uncertain outcome of the Ugandan conflict, will delay any settlement for a long time.

Kenya would have to make sacrifices, and this they did under the treaty for East African Co-operation, signed in 1967.

The Treaty established a customs union for manufactures and temporarily modified by a system of taxes on inter-state transfers. Kenya also agreed to move the headquarters of the Community from Nairobi to Tanzania and the post and telecommunications headquarters to Uganda. The treaty involved a system of "transfer taxes" which, in effect, allowed a deficit country to impose a tariff on manufactures from a surplus country. An East African Development Bank was also set up, which was required to allocate its funds on the basis of 33 1/3 per cent to Uganda and Tanzania and 22 1/3 per cent to Kenya.

But the Treaty made no mention of the freedom of the movement of labour within the

Community. It did not include agricultural produce in its charter, and the only reference to the movement of capital was to restrict it.

None the less, the Community functioned comparatively well, if rather slowly, for three years. It was the arrival of President Amin in 1971 which almost severed relations between Kampala and Dar es Salaam, and effectively impeded the Community from dealing with its difficulties.

The biggest of these remained Kenya's embarrassingly large trade surplus. In 1978, total inter-Community trade amounted to \$38m, of which Kenya's exports to the other two countries contributed \$26.6m. Tanzania ran a trade deficit of \$15m with Kenya and also ran a small trade deficit with Uganda.

Political considerations got in the way of economic sense, according to observers, and Tanzania wanted to run the Community as a private shop for its exports. Tanzania also said Kenya was bleeding capital from the other two countries. It imposed tighter restrictions on foreign exchange and banned some Kenyan exports.

Kenya replied that because Tanzania was committed to importing substantial amounts of Chinese goods to help pay for the Tanzam railway, it could not be an effective member of the Community. Kenya said it could supply all the other two countries' needs in dairy products, foodstuffs, and pharmaceuticals, which were coming from outside the community. It was while these bitter exchanges were passing between the capitals that Tanzania decided to close the border.

It is that legacy of bitterness which will have to be overcome before normal economic and political relations between the three countries can start again.

## Hotel renovation plan for China

HONG KONG—An official with a U.S. building company involved in construction in China said the Chinese will probably renovate existing hotels rather than build many new ones.

Mr. Robert Kupfer, president of Turner International, part of the New York-based Turner Construction, said the Chinese have decided to renovate buildings because of problems in arranging financing for major hotel construction projects.

The Chinese are likely to contract with foreign construction companies to supervise the remodelling and with foreign hotel companies to help manage the refurbished properties, he said.

Turner has been involved with bids by two major U.S. hotel chains—Intercontinental and Hyatt International—to build hotels in China. Mr. Kupfer was in Peking last week to put the finishing touches on an agreement with China's Ministry of Foreign Trade to build a \$500m foreign trade complex. Turner is part of a three-company U.S. group that agreed to build the complex.

The apparent retrenchment of the hotel projects is part of a

general cutback in Chinese construction projects.

In Chicago, a Hyatt spokesman said he could not confirm that the Chinese may be shelving their hotel building plans. But he said he would not find it surprising in view of recent reports that Chinese officials are having second thoughts on their

## Talks on air agreement

TOKYO — Regular commercial flights between the U.S. and China are expected to start as early as November, the financial journal Nihon Keizai Shimbun said yesterday.

Japanese Transport Ministry officials declined to comment on the article which quoted aviation officials as saying Peking and Washington had been holding working-level talks on the issue since early this year when they resumed diplomatic ties.

Japan and China are to hold aviation talks in Peking next month, and the officials said it was possible that China would propose an agreement permitting Chinese aircraft to stop in Japan on their way to the U.S.

China needs such permission because it has not yet taken

expansion plans because of inadequate cash, among other reasons.

Mr. Reynolds Burgund, International's vice-president in charge of development, said in New York he is confident his company's China project will materialise.

AP-DJ

delivery of Boeing 747 jumbo jets which can fly non-stop to the U.S.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps and Transportation Secretary Brock Adams are expected to visit Peking soon to work out a bilateral air agreement.

China has proposed deals with two Japanese chemical firms on exports of plants and technology to produce petroleum protein as livestock feed, the newspaper Asahi reported yesterday.

It said Kanagafuchi Chemical Industry, Japan's major chemical producer, recently sent officials to Peking to discuss the Chinese offer in detail, and Dainippon Ink and Chemical has scheduled similar talks. Agencies

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## Canada cuts car deficit

BY VICTOR MACKIE IN OTTAWA

CANADA'S LARGE deficit in its motor trade with the United States has been cut by 50.2 per cent to C\$958m in 1978 from C\$1,988m in 1977, the statistics branch of the Canadian Government has reported.

It was the sixth consecutive year that Canada's imports of new motor vehicles, parts, tyres and tubes from the United States exceeded its exports of these products to the U.S. Under

the 14-year-old Canada-U.S. auto pact there is free North American trade in most new North American-made vehicles and parts.

Canadian automobile imports from the U.S. totalled C\$12,538m in 1978, up 14.5 per cent from C\$10,948m in 1977. U.S. imports of Canadian automotive products totalled C\$11,996m, up 21.6 per cent from C\$9,868m in 1977.

## Motor dumping alleged

PARIS — The French association of Electric Motor Manufacturers and six other European groups have jointly filed a formal complaint with the EEC

The six other associations represent motor makers in Belgium, Denmark, Britain, Italy, the Netherlands and Germany.

The manufacturers said cheap electrical motors from Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, East Germany, Romania, Czechoslovakia and

Europe at as much as 25-30 per cent below normal prices, depending on the country.

The French association noted that motors from the Communist Bloc were being sold in France at less than the cost of the raw materials used in their construction.

It suggested that the dumping was responsible for eliminating 50,000 jobs. AP-D



## COMPANHIA NACIONAL DE PETROQUIMICA

—The Count-Down has already started

The ethylene unit of Companhia Nacional de Petroquímica is due to start up at the beginning of 1980. Progress in the construction work is as follows:

Ethylene plant: steam cracker—engineering 100%, civil construction 98%, erection 50%; butadiene unit—erection is scheduled to commence in the third quarter of the coming year, more than 40% of the engineering of this unit having already been concluded and site work beginning in May next.

Linde AG is in charge of the engineering and construction of both the steam cracker and the butadiene units.

Polymer production units under the responsibility of CNP's subsidiary EPB are also about to start, and off-site construction in the whole platform for which Lummus is responsible is almost complete.

Taking into consideration the Portuguese Government's stress on the necessity of entering into international reciprocal trade arrangements, Companhia Nacional de Petroquímica is endeavouring to establish diversified multilateral relationships. Delegations of the Company are constantly travelling in order to deepen the initial contacts and to explore the most promising prospects with the main goal of studying the possibilities which exist for reciprocal trade agreements and industrial and technological co-operation.

A substantial part of the different products coming out of the steam cracker, namely ethylene, propylene, C. fraction, pyrolysis gasoline, pyrolysis fuel oil will be locally processed and upgraded to polyethylene, polypropylene, butadiene, BTX, carbon black) and essentially absorbed by the internal market.

However, for a period of 3-4 years after start-up, CNP's production will be in excess over the domestic consumption and the balance will have to be exported. CNP has been remarkably successful in establishing agreements

with different companies in several countries tying the present import of petrochemical raw materials for the existing plastics processing industry with the future compensation export of CNP products a couple of years later.

Some contracts and letters of intention have already been signed on that principle, which CNP believes is highly significant as contribution to redress the equilibrium of the balance of trade. Meanwhile a contract for the sale of ethylene valued at 90 million dollars is expected to be signed shortly.

This is in real fact the situation of the Portuguese Olefins complex. The image of regular progress of the project was however recently upset by a period of growing public concern that CNP could possibly be heading into difficulties. Doubts were expressed in the media about the Government's support for the construction of the SINES Petrochemical Complex even to the extent of an ecological commentator hinting that the company should close completely down.

Two factors contributed to the concern spread by the media. Firstly, the violent storms which damaged the Portuguese coastline and from which the SINES main breakwater also suffered. Secondly, the support given by ecologists to the view that, in contrast, heavy industry including SINES should be closed down and the economy returned to an agricultural, small industry basis. The publicity given in the international press to these opinions contributed to anxiety in European political, financial and industrial spheres.

These fears do not have any solid foundation, and so to clarify the situation and dispel any negative rumours, CNP undertook to obtain a firm statement of intentions. In a letter dated February 14th, the Minister of Industry and Technology, Mr. Alvaro Barreto, wrote:

"We once again confirm the Government's total approval of the under-

takings already agreed upon and presently in progress at the SINES Petrochemical Complex".

Mr. Barreto further said that the undertaking of the second phase would only be approved following its justification. On the 22nd February Professor Jacinto Nunes, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, declared: "... It is common sense to affirm that the undertakings of Companhia Nacional de Petroquímica which have already started should not be discontinued."

On the 24th February the Minister of Industry, Mr. Alvaro Barreto, in an interview given to the weekly newspaper Expresso, touched on the possibilities of entering into associations involving foreign investments. He quoted the example of Companhia Nacional de Petroquímica and emphasised that the second phase, involving an investment of about three hundred and thirty million dollars in acrylic fibres and in synthetic rubbers, is still waiting for an authorisation which will only be given if joint ventures take place with foreign companies possessing technology and markets guaranteeing a partial outlet for the products.

These unequivocal statements by the highest Government members responsible for the direction of economic, financial and industrial affairs in Portugal disavowed all doubts on the official support to the Olefins Petrochemical Complex. The future sets nearer every day, and for CNP the countdown has already started.

"Note: As to the undertakings about which no decision has been taken yet (this referred to as "second phase"), the Minister's statements coincide with the procedure already followed by CNP concerning the timely authorisation of all the projects now in construction, which were also approved by the Government after thorough analysis of feasibility studies submitted by the Company."

COMPANHIA NACIONAL DE PETROQUIMICA EP  
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## British team to study N-plant

By David Fishlock, Science Editor

BRITAIN IS sending a team to the U.S. to investigate the accident at the 880 MW nuclear power station on Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania.

This was announced yesterday by Mr. Guy England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, which is making a study of the pressurised water reactor (PWR) type involved in the accident—with Government approval.

England stressed the electricity supply industry's intention of continuing with plans to build a demonstration PWR in Britain.

The Babcock and Wilcox design of PWR involved in the accident is one of four designs—three U.S. and one Canadian—being examined by the CEGB with the idea of building a 1,300MW demonstration plant, probably at Sellafield, or Hinkley Point in Somerset.

As Mr. England told the annual conference of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association in York yesterday, the CEGB has the Government's approval to examine the PWR as an alternative to Britain's gas-cooled types of reactor.

Mr. England said that Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Secretary for Energy, had endorsed the Government's decision to order a PWR, provided design work was "satisfactorily completed and all features, Page 18"

## Woman boss for McCann

By Michael Thompson-Noel



Miss Ann Burdus: Moving into the McCann hot seat

MISS ANN BURDUS, 46, has become the first woman chairman of a top British advertising agency. She succeeds Mr. Nigel Grandfield at McCann and Company, who has resigned to join the Saatchi and Saatchi Group.

McCann is the holding company of one of Britain's biggest advertising groups, with annual billings in excess of £70m. The McCann vice-chairman, Mr. Barry Day, has been named group president.

Mr. Grandfield is having discussions with Saatchi and Saatchi—the Conservative Party's agency—about an unspecified venture.

For the past 15 months, Miss Burdus has been working for McCann-Erickson International in New York as director of advertising development and strategic planning. McCann-Erickson International is the world's third largest advertising agency, and is part of the Interpublic group of companies.

Miss Burdus joined McCann London as research director in 1971, when billings were £10m.

Last year the main McCann agency in London billed £59m, making it second to J. Walter Thompson (£63.9m). At £55.1m, Saatchi and Saatchi, Garland-Compton was the fourth biggest and the leading British-owned agency.

## BP faces \$2bn U.S. claim over Libyan oil agreement

By A. H. Hermann, Legal Correspondent

A DALLAS court is to be asked to make a \$2bn award against British Petroleum by Mr. Neilson Bunker Hunt, a U.S. oil millionaire, following a London High Court award of \$17m to BP—the amount by which Mr. Hunt was found to have unjustly enriched himself in a joint Libyan venture with BP, frustrated by the nationalisation of oil fields in Libya.

Up to now Mr. Hunt's action in the U.S. District Court in Dallas, dormant since 1973, had been purely defensive, seeking a decision that he does not owe anything to BP.

Though the London judgment will go to the Court of Appeal, no stay of the award was granted and BP could lay hands on Mr. Hunt's property if it could find any within the jurisdiction of English courts. Apart from his race horses, however, there is no public knowledge of any assets in the UK. BP has

considerable assets in the U.S. Contractual relations between BP and Mr. Hunt date from 1960 when BP agreed to operate a concession owned by Mr. Hunt and covering the Sarir oilfield in Libya. According to this agreement, Mr. Hunt had to receive a part of the oil but was not liable for any losses.

The present dispute concerns the period between December 1971, when BP's own concessions were sequestered by the Libyan Government, and May 1973 when Mr. Hunt's concession was also sequestered.

BP claimed successfully in the High Court that the Libyan nationalisation frustrated its agreement with Mr. Hunt and that part of the oil which he had received before 1973 represented an unjust enrichment out of drilling operations carried out and financed by BP.

Yesterday's announcement of the counter-action, made by Mr.

Hunt's London spokesman, seems to have come as a surprise to BP.

According to Mr. Hunt's London spokesman, his counter-claims fall into three categories. He alleges that BP failed to develop the field quickly enough, preferring to keep oil in the ground in what then appeared a safe and easily accessible area.

His second complaint concerns the defensive action which BP, in secret agreement with other oil companies, took after the sequestration. In particular, Mr. Hunt claims that the "hot oil" actions which BP then took against carriers of oil from its sequestered Libyan oil fields, claiming the oil to be its property, made it impossible for Mr. Hunt to export and distribute oil on behalf of the Libyan national company (the Arab Gulf Exploration Company).

This in turn deprived him of oil from his concession earlier developed by BP and, he claims, worsened his relationship with the Libyan Government to the point that his concession was also sequestered.

Mr. Hunt has also claimed that BP negotiated compensation from Libya without consulting him first, as they should have done according to his reading of the agreement.

These points were made by Mr. Hunt's counsel in the London High Court, but with no success. Mr. Hunt, who replaced his London lawyers recently, is likely to pursue them further in the Court of Appeal.

A BP spokesman said he believed the Dallas court had not yet decided whether it had jurisdiction over the case. Mr. Hunt's spokesman, however, said there was no jurisdictional problem in Dallas and the action was merely suspended in order to await the High Court judgment.

## ICI plans to cut 450 jobs annually in fibres division

By Sue Cameron, Chemicals Correspondent

IMPERIAL CHEMICAL Industries is planning to cut 450 jobs a year in its fibres division between now and the mid-1980s.

The company has warned the 11,600 employees in the division that numbers will have to be reduced by about 4 per cent annually. The move follows a 30 per cent cut in the number of people employed by the division over the last three years.

But the group has stressed that the planned 4 per cent annual cut in job numbers is

more of a "guiding figure" than a strict target. ICI has told employees that the number of staff the company employs "must" depend on what it sells. It has also said there is a need "to face up to any restructuring and regrouping of the fibres business that may be necessary to cut numbers."

But the division has told employees that enforced redundancies will be avoided wherever possible. Jobs will go

through natural wastage, voluntary severance and early retirement.

ICI said yesterday that the division had been hit by "enormous" increases in the cost of raw materials and by overcapacity in the fibres field, particularly in polyester. These factors had combined to "nullify" the division's otherwise successful efforts to cut costs and streamline its organisation.

## Shorts plans to produce Piper Tomahawks in Northern Ireland

By Lynton McLean

SHORT BROTHERS, the State-owned Belfast aerospace company, has reached agreement with the U.S. Piper Aircraft Corporation for the production of Northern Ireland of the Tomahawk fighter.

The move was announced yesterday in London as nearly 3,000 Short Brothers' shop-floor workers returned to work after a two-week strike over a pay dispute which closed the main Belfast factory and a smaller works in County Down.

Production of the Tomahawk will create only about 40 jobs initially, but the move is part of a longer-term plan for Short Brothers and Piper to co-operate on future aircraft designs, manufacture and sales.

The Tomahawk is one of the most successful new light aircraft to the U.S. Sales reached 1,400 in the first 15 months of production, although Short Brothers is expected to produce only 10 aircraft a month, possibly rising to 18 as the Belfast workforce gains experience and sales in Europe accelerate.

Short Brothers is to invest £500,000 in re-equipping pre-

viously vacated by the Royal Air Force last year and bought by the company.

The site is on the edge of Short Brothers' Belfast Harbour Airport and will be operated as a Tomahawk assembly centre by a new, wholly-owned subsidiary, Shorts Light Aircraft Company.

The investment is backed by aid from the Department of Industry and the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce, and agreement marks a successful end to Shorts' second bid to enter the rapidly growing market for light aircraft, now expanding at 7 per cent a year.

The company attempted to acquire the Britten-Norman (Bembridge) company and the Islander and Trislander aircraft assets of the Fairley group's Belgian subsidiary in August 1977.

The bid was rejected by the Fairley receiver three months later, and the Swiss Pilatus aircraft company eventually took over the assets last year.

Mr. Philip Foreman, Short Brothers' managing director and chief executive, said the latest move was aimed at broadening

the company's product range. He accepted that earlier moves by UK aircraft makers to enter the light aviation field had met with "severe problems."

Half the company's turnover of £44.4m for the year to last August 31 came from aircraft, including the 330 Commuter airliner.

Production of the Tomahawk at Belfast will be based on container loads of parts made in the U.S. components may later be made by Shorts, but this will depend on the success of the early production runs.

Assembly of the Tomahawk by Shorts will bring to an end the re-assembly of the aircraft by CSE Aviation at Carlisle. This company assembled the aircraft after it had been completed and certificated and then dismantled in the U.S. for shipment. The company will still be Piper's sales agent for Europe.

The improved efficiency of shipping parts instead of dismantled completed aircraft will cut the cost of making a Tomahawk in Britain by £1,000, Mr. Lyn Helms, the chairman and chief executive officer of Piper said yesterday.

## Ulster asks for aid to small firms

By Our Belfast Correspondent

A wide-ranging report on ways of stimulating the growth of small businesses in Ulster has recommended that the Government adopt measures similar to those of the Irish Republic's Industrial Development Authority.

The study, by the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, examined the problems of Ulster's 26,000 companies employing fewer than 100 people. This sector is dominated by very small businesses: more than 18,000 employ fewer than ten people, and 80 per cent of these are in service industries.

The report said that the Industrial Development Authority consistently demonstrated its ability to integrate and stimulate business projects of all kinds.

It recommended a study of the Authority's operation, and in particular its enterprise development programme, which is specifically directed at encouraging trained managers in large and medium-size companies to start out on their own.

The report suggested, too, that the Government should dispel the widely-held belief that it was more interested in attracting newcomers to Ulster than encouraging existing small companies to expand and diversify.

The present incentives were inadequate to encourage capital investment; general tax allowances and working capital concessions were needed for the first three years of a venture's operation.

Stimulating Small Business in Northern Ireland, from the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce, Belfast.

## Colliery's output at new peak

OLLERTON COLLIERY, Nottinghamshire, produced a record 27,027 tonnes of coal last week, compared with its previous best weekly output of 26,977 tonnes achieved almost eight years ago, the Coal Board said yesterday. The mine also set a record for its weekly overall output per man shift of 5.07 tonnes, 0.4 tonnes higher than the previous record set last December.

## Land shortage threat to home ownership

By Andrew Taylor

THE GROWTH of home ownership is being threatened by a shortage of available building land, the Building Societies Association says. It adds that in a number of cases Government policies were to blame for the shortage.

Mr. Ralph Stow, chairman of the association, says in its publication, Building Society Affairs, that only 150,000 new houses for owner occupation were built last year, compared with 152,000 in 1976. A further decline was expected this year.

The Government target of a modest increase in home ownership would not be met if building for owner occupation was not increased to between 170,000 and 190,000 units a year by 1981, rising to 215,000 by 1986.

A recent survey by the House Builders Federation had shown that 75 per cent of builders regarded shortage of land at viable prices as one of the main reasons for their failure to meet demand.

Government land policies Mr. Stow says, had created concern on four counts:

● Some local authorities were reluctant to grant planning permission for individual developments while structure plans under the 1968 Town and Country Planning Act had

either to be approved or finalised.

● Structure plans were increasingly reflecting "anti-growth philosophy" with too much concentration on inner-city developments, where building costs were high and marketability of housing open to doubt.

Housebuilding had fallen to a very low level since the introduction of the Community Land Act under which there was no motivation for local authorities to make land available to housebuilders.

● Development Land Tax was excessively complicated and had created uncertainty, even though the Government had made provisions to ensure that comparatively little tax would be paid on small disposals of land.

Mr. Stow says the constantly changing economic environment created great problems for housebuilders, compounded by a number of cases by which "are no more than administrative problems."

The publication confirms that a record 802,000 loans were made by building societies last year, of which 378,000 were to first-time buyers. More than 45 per cent of such buyers were earning less than the national average, and were able to buy houses costing less than £11,000.

## Super pit seam thicker than expected

By John Lloyd

THE WISTOW seam of the National Coal Board's "super pit" at Selby, North Yorkshire, which has just been opened, is 4 inches thicker than expected. The 8 ft 10 ins seam is one of five vertical shafts on the 100 sq mile development, which is expected to produce 10m tonnes of coal a year by the late 1980s.

Mr. Michael Eaton, director of the North Yorkshire area, said the development was likely to cost £600m on completion (see August 1978 prices)—£100m more than the original estimate. Expenditure was subject to constant updating, he said.

While it is officially stated that the development will produce 25m tonnes of coal over 25 years, it is believed that the extraction rate could be much higher.

Mr. Eaton said the Coal Board had spent about £60m on the development and that expenditure was running at between £1.25m and £1.5m a week.

## Contractors

Work has begun on all five shafts, together with the drift mine from which all the coal will come. The main contractors are Cementation, a Trafalgar House subsidiary, and Thyssen.

While there have been some delays in the construction of the shafts, Mr. Bill Forrest, the engineer in charge of the project, said it was "pretty much on time now."

The first coal to be mined in commercial quantities will appear in 1981. Production is expected to build up to the 10m tonne level, or beyond, by 1987-1988.

About 4,000 mineworkers are expected to be employed at Selby when it is in full production, many of them to be drawn from old pits on the western side of the Yorkshire coalfield.

## Government to call in £4.8m aid for Kirkby

By Our Industrial Editor

THE GOVERNMENT has formally joined the list of distressed creditors of the Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering workers' co-operative by telling the business's liquidator that it was to call in the £4.8m it has provided in industrial aid.

Although there is little chance of this being recouped, the move provides the Department of Industry with a seat at a meeting of the co-operative's creditors next week.

It also makes the Government the main creditor and gives it the chance to have a significant influence on the future of the co-operative's assets.

## Kite-maker wound up

PETER POWELL KITES, the company which introduced the stunt kite and exported it to Japan, was compulsorily wound up in the High Court yesterday. Mr. Justice Vinelott made the order on a petition by Minalev Ltd., judgment creditors, for £24,107. No other creditors listed claims.

A previous petition against Peter Powell Kites, whose registered office is at 28 Cambray Place, Cheltenham, was dismissed by consent in December, 1977.

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## Industrialist to lead wool committee

By Rhys David

THE ECONOMIC development committee covering wool textiles has turned to the man-made fibres industry for its new chairman, Dr. Brian Smith, director of ICI's main Board and until last year chairman of the group's fibres division.

Dr. Smith has just ended a two-year term as president of the British Textile Confederation during which he was closely involved in presenting the textile industry's case for continued safeguards against low-cost imports. He is also a vice-president of CIRFS, the European association for fibre producers, a post in which he helped prepare a European strategy for the sector.

Dr. Smith succeeds Mr. David Finlay-Maxwell as chairman of the economic development committee at a time of much tougher competition for the wool textile industry. Although

it has had some success with exports, the industry has lost ground at home, and the committee has recently revised downwards its estimates of both output and employment.

Increasing competition faced by the industry in export markets was underlined in figures for January recently published by the industry's Press office in Bradford. These showed exports at £29.3m during January, a drop of £700,000 on December's and of £40,000 on those of January 1978.

Exports of wool cloth at £11.4m were 10 per cent down on January 1978, and 12 per cent less in volume. Exports of yarn were down also, but earnings from tops (combed wool) increased by 17 per cent to £4.7m and were 3 per cent greater in volume.

The industry is pointing out,

however, that the lower figures in some sectors may have been due at least in part to the effects of the lorry drivers' strike which held up deliveries to the docks.

In the longer term the industry is hoping to export substantially more to the U.S. as a result of the reduction in wool textile tariffs included by the U.S. in its package of proposals at the GATT negotiations. The U.S., after considerable pressure from the UK and the EEC, is proposing to reduce its wool textile tariff from 44 per cent to 33 per cent, which should help make cloth produced in the UK and other EEC countries more competitive there. This GATT agreement is to be initialled in Geneva tomorrow.

Mr. John Smith, Britain's Secretary of State for Trade, has written to the TUC claim-

ing that Britain has secured an important assurance on safeguards.

Britain has been pressing for GATT to allow selective action to be taken against one or a few countries when it is clear their imports are causing injury. At present, safeguard action, when invoked, must be used against all importers.

Mr. Smith, in his letter, says it has not been possible so far to secure international backing for Britain's proposal, but the EEC itself has accepted that selective safeguards may be appropriate to deal with sudden and abrupt market disturbance. "This meets our fundamental interest of being able to take action against particularly disruptive imports in order to maintain employment in sensitive UK industries without disrupting world trade on a wide basis," he writes.



## UK NEWS

## Forecast of brief recovery in output

By David Fraud

THERE could be some recovery in industrial output over the next few months, according to the latest circular from the London Business School Centre for Economic Forecasting.

The centre says a recovery is suggested by the acceleration in the real money supply, adjusted for inflation, which has grown at an annual rate of 5.7 per cent over the last three months. However, that growth is expected to weaken as inflation picks up and money stock expansion lessens following recent large sales of gilt-edged stock.

A 10 per cent increase in the price of oil—in world currency terms—would lead to a short-term increase in average world wholesale prices of 0.8 per cent, the centre calculates.

The UK is expected to suffer less than the average from inflation directly caused by higher prices, as its limited balance of payments exposure has resulted in an appreciation in sterling. Japan may suffer more than the average, as the balance of payments consequences have led to a fall in the yen.

The centre argues that world output will suffer during the second half of this year and into 1980 from any increase in prices. "Experience suggests that an increase in inflation will dampen demand."

## Exaggerated

However, this movement may be exaggerated if governments respond to higher inflation by contracting monetary growth. The centre believes that within a year a 10 per cent increase in oil prices would reduce expected industrial output by up to 0.5 per cent.

City brokers also argue that there could be a revival of economic activity over the coming quarter after a pause during the "winter of discontent."

The firm points out that the real money supply continues to increase rapidly, "which suggests that aggregate demand will remain buoyant over the next six months."

It argues that the excess demand for labour and goods present in the UK economy for many months show no signs of abating yet.

It would thus be mistaken to allow foreign inflows to force domestic interest rates to fall substantially.

## Freedom urged for Britain's managers

By Lisa Wood

BRITAIN'S MANAGERS needed to be freed from frustrations and obstructions and encouraged in their drive to improve productivity, Sir Monty Finniston, former chairman of British Steel and a director of Sears Holdings, said yesterday.

He was speaking in London at the 1979 Conservation of the Year awards, sponsored by the Enticest Castolin Institute. Awards are given by the institute, which researches and develops protective maintenance welding technology, in recognition of companies' contributions to saving materials, energy and money through protective maintenance welding.

First prize was won by Sheerness Steel, of Sheerness, Kent, which processes 400,000 tons of steel a year in two rolling mills producing bar and

rod steel. Its products go to specialist users for reinforcement bars, wire, springs and other applications.

Sir Monty said that conservation was the basis of good management. "We have as a nation to manufacture efficiently and that is through good management."

"I believe that if the management of any other country in the world had had to put up with the interferences and interventions we have had to put up with, they would have been bankrupt."

The solution to Britain's manufacturing difficulties did not rest with government intervention, the Trades Union Congress or the employers' federations; rather, it was up to management. "They have the expertise and the pride in their jobs to do it. Unless we

encourage these people we will not get out of the problems."

Big pay increases could not be the only incentive. "We will not encourage people that much if frustrations and obstacles are not removed," said Sir Monty.

"We should only depend on individuals to use their abilities and meet their ambitions. Professional pride was all that Britain's managers had left, and they had to be given the freedom to operate without excessive government intervention, legislation and trade union activity."

The second award went to Hepworth Industrial Plastics, near Burnley, Lancashire. Third prize was awarded to Sir Francis Dashwood, Myre Farm, West Wymondley, Essex, Buckinghamshire and a special award was made to Oxy-Gas and Electrical Equipment, Kent.

## Buoyant demand lifts British heavy truck sale estimates

By Kenneth Gooding, Motor Industry Correspondent

UK DEMAND for heavy trucks has been so buoyant in the first quarter of 1979 that manufacturers and suppliers have steadily revised sales estimates for the year.

Cummins, a leading supplier of truck engines, now believes articulated tractor unit sales in the UK could reach 14,000 in 1979 against a January forecast of 13,000.

If this estimate proves correct, it would still represent a drop from the 14,800 units registered last year. In historic terms, however, the year would be a very good one for the manufacturers.

Cummins is particularly interested in the performance of the market for articulated units because its share of those registered by UK manufacturers is steadily increasing—it was up from 35 to 36.7 per cent in 1978.

And, taking the UK heavy truck market as a whole (trucks of more than 24 tons gross), Cummins maintains its share will rise rapidly from the current 19 per cent to 30 per cent by the early-to-mid 1980s.

Cummins believes UK manufacturers will win back sales from imported trucks. Manufacturing capacity should prove no problem. A £30m programme to double the 10,000 per year capacity of Cummins' plant at Shotts, Lanarkshire, where its range of 14-litre engines are made, is on

schedule and will be completed by 1981.

About 60 per cent of Shotts business is automotive, compared with 40 per cent for Cummins total diesel engine sales.

A new Cummins parts distribution centre for Europe, the Middle East and Africa should be fully operational in Mechelen, Belgium, by October.

Among the worst faults recorded by engineers at the test were complete failure of front brakes together with deficient rear brakes, unbalance brakes and hand-brake failure.

Mr. Gordon Wainwright, technical service manager for Lucas Girling, said: "The uniformity of the failure rates throughout our 50,000 tests indicates that there will be an increase in the official failure rate

Profits prospects for motor component manufacturers are "not especially attractive," according to a report published by Inter Company Comparisons. The report says the possibility of further petrol and diesel price increases could have a temporary effect on vehicle usage and replacement component demand. "The smaller companies within the industry will find conditions especially difficult, as they continue to compete with the large market share hungry groups, except in particular specialist areas."

Motor Components and Accessory Manufacturers; ICC Business Ratios, 81, City Road, London EC1Y 1BD; price £55.

Spanish chess piece sold for £25,000

A SPANISH ivory chess piece of the late 18th century, probably representing the king, sold for £25,000 yesterday in a Christie's sale of sculpture and works of art. Another good price was the £13,500 paid by a private English collector for a 14th century French ivory carving of a diptych leaf, which had twice previously appeared at Christie's, in 1913 it sold for £84 and in 1936 for £265.

A bronze figure of Venus went privately for £8,000 and a North Italian bronze centre-

goblet of around 1880 while a Baccarat carpet ground paperweight representing the king, sold for £25,000 yesterday in a Christie's sale of sculpture and works of art. Another good price was the £13,500 paid by a private English collector for a 14th century French ivory carving of a diptych leaf, which had twice previously appeared at Christie's, in 1913 it sold for £84 and in 1936 for £265.

On Friday, Christie's opened its second New York saleroom, Christie's East, modelled on the lines of Christie's South Kensington in London and concentrating on a quick throughput of the less expensive antiques. The first auction was of jewels and did very well for a total of \$81,250. An art deco diamond ring made three times forecast at £2,100 while a brooch designed as a Buckingham Palace guard sold for eight times forecast at £400.

Meanwhile at Christie's South Kensington a tapering cylindrical coffee pot reached the top price in a silver sale at £27,321 and among the potlids "Christmas Eve" sold for £120.

Stanley Gibbons has extended its coverage of the antique markets by opening an antiquarian books department. It has already amassed almost 400 books which form its first catalogue. They range from a first edition of Newton's Principia of 1687, priced at £15,000, to a booklet on sanitary conditions in Oxford in 1848 priced at £15.

Also at Christie's a continental porcelain sale totalled £123,803. A Meissen part dinner service was bought by Davis, a London dealer, for £15,000 and a single Meissen figure of a single figure from the Comedia Dell'Arte made £5,500.

The first day of a Sotheby's auction of medical and scientific books brought in £53,348. Dawson acquired the three top lots: a first, presentation edition, of Thomas Addison's On the constitutional and local effects of diseases of the supra renal capsules 1835 (which first described Addison's disease), for £4,800; a second 1823 edition of Isagoge by Berengario da Carpi for the same price; and Arctand by Dr. Arctand for £3,000. Blackwell of Oxford acquired Galileo's Dimostrazioni Matematiche for £2,000.

In the sale of glass and paperweights, which totalled £34,960, a Dutch private buyer paid £1,650 for a Facon de Venise

The Spanish ivory chess piece which sold for £25,000

Barcardi and Courage settle rum dispute

THE DISPUTE between the Barcardi company and the Courage brewers over alleged substitution of another brand of rum when Barcardi was requested, has been settled.

Barcardi's solicitors, Simmons and Simmons, said yesterday that legal proceedings against Courage and others had been terminated after a meeting between Barcardi and Courage. "The solicitors said: 'Courage confirms its policy and intention that in its managed houses, when Barcardi rum is ordered, it is served, or if not available the fact of its unavailability should be clearly stated.'"

Barcardi also welcomed the assurance provided by Courage that it is its policy "to meet reasonable consumer demand for Barcardi rum in its managed houses."

## More cars likely to fail brake test

By Kenneth Gooding

TESTS CARRIED out by Lucas Girling suggest that more than 40 per cent of cars will fail the roller brake test when it becomes a compulsory part of the MOT in June.

This is twice the failure rate under existing MOT regulations for poor braking performance which, according to the Transport Department, was just over 20 per cent for 1978.

Over the past 10 years Lucas Girling has examined more than 50,000 private cars using roller brake equipment and test criteria similar to those to be used when the new regulations come into force.

The latest test, in North London, involved 489 cars and produced a failure rate of 42 per cent—identical to that recorded in a similar test in 1978.

Of the cars tested, 81 per cent were three years old or more and of MOT examination age. The failure rate among these vehicles rose to 46 per cent.

Among the worst faults recorded by engineers at the test were complete failure of front brakes together with deficient rear brakes, unbalance brakes and hand-brake failure.

Mr. Gordon Wainwright, technical service manager for Lucas Girling, said: "The uniformity of the failure rates throughout our 50,000 tests indicates that there will be an increase in the official failure rate

Post Office to buy 830 Leyland vans

Financial Times Reporter

LEYLAND VEHICLES has won its biggest order for postal vans. The Post Office has ordered 830, worth more than £5m, for delivery during the next 12 months.

The Post Office already has about 11,300 Leyland vans in service.

Leyland Vehicles, the bus, truck and tractor division of BL, will build the vans at its Bathgate plant in Scotland. The order is for 420 EA345 vans, with a 274 cu ft capacity, and 410 high-roof EA440 vans, with a 360 cu ft capacity.

## Importers achieve record share of new car sales

By Kenneth Gooding, Motor Industry Correspondent

OFFICIAL INDUSTRY figures today confirm that importers won a record 55.24 per cent of the UK new car market in March, and that they made their deepest-ever penetration for a first quarter by taking 53.97 per cent of total sales.

Demand in March remained particularly buoyant. Registrations, at 186,474 were 4.46 per cent higher than in the same month last year, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

As a result, sales during the first quarter, at 475,069, were only marginally below the best-ever level of 1978 when registrations for the three months totalled 483,477.

With the Japanese restricting shipments in line with their voluntary agreement to take a "prudent" view of the UK market, the Common Market car companies have gained most from the continuing high demand for new cars.

Cars assembled outside the UK, but within the EEC, accounted for 36 per cent of the first-quarter market against 30.5 per cent in the same period. Some of this penetration is linked with Ford's "Europeanisation" process which is now complete. As a result, 47 per cent of the new Ford cars registered in the first quarter were assembled outside the UK. The comparable figure in 1978 was 33.4 per cent.

Indications are that the trend will continue—in March alone 49.65 per cent of new Ford cars were imported—as the group works towards capturing at least a 50 per cent market share this year.

Meanwhile, BL's first-quarter market shares fell from 26 per cent to 22.2 per cent, but the group maintains this just about matches its sales estimate.

In the wake of BL's discussions with Honda of Japan, the importance of individual models to manufacturers takes on renewed significance. Nothing is as good for market share as a successful and popular car.

Ford is having to import Cortinas from Belgium and West Germany to keep pace with demand for Britain's most popular vehicle. And imports from Spain reflect the success of the Fiesta: only 1,812 Fords came in from Spain in the first quarter of 1978 against nearly 12,500 in the same months this year.

## Horizon impact

The "car of the year," Chrysler's Horizon, has had a similar impact on the trading balance. Chrysler brought in 9,388 of these French-built cars in the first quarter, against just over 1,000 in 1978.

Renault's R18, rivaling the Cortina and BL's Marina, has already gained some fleet sales. But Renault's 49 per cent jump in first-quarter sales and its emergence as the leading traditional importer (as against non-UK-based) reflects not only a popular range of cars, but also the company's policy of strengthening its UK dealer network.

The company is planning to add up to 200 more service points to its present 415 franchised dealers.

Volvvo achieved its best performance in the first quarter, thanks in part to demand for the manual version of its small

car, the 343, to take 136 per cent of total sales. It sold three times as many 343s in March this year as in the same month last year.

Peugeot's entry into the mid-range saloon sector, the 905, has made an impact. It was not on the UK market this time last year, but in March captured 0.86 per cent of total new car sales.

As the 504 continues to be popular in Britain, Peugeot's first-quarter penetration is up from 1.42 to 2.14 per cent.

With all these cars competing for the market middle section, it is understandable that BL should want to replace its ageing Marina and the Allegro before 1983—the "probable date for the launch of a replacement—even if it takes a deal with another manufacturer to do so.

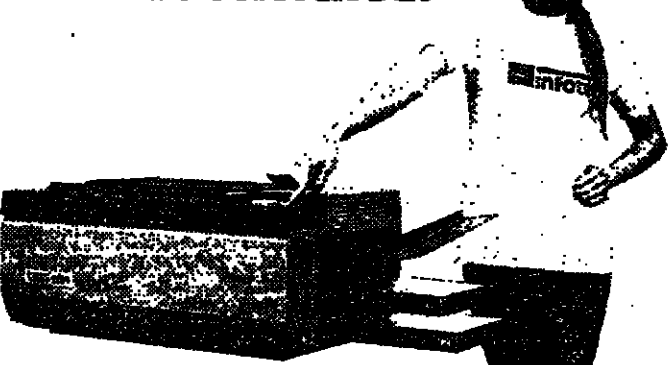
Vauxhall is bucking the trend towards imports by switching production of the Cavalier from Belgium to the UK. The company has a popular range now but cannot produce cars fast enough. The problem seems likely to persist until the autumn at least. Meanwhile, Vauxhall's market share in the first quarter fell from 7.23 to 6.91 per cent.

The manufacturers' society says the top 10 popular cars in the UK in March were: the Ford Cortina (21,002 sold); the Ford Escort (14,442); Austin Morris Mini (10,888); Austin Allegro (8,580); Morris Marina (7,050); Ford Fiesta (6,122); Ford Granada (5,947); Vauxhall Chevette (5,634); Ford Capri (5,320); Vauxhall Cavalier (4,118).

UK CAR REGISTRATIONS		March		Three months ended March			
		1979	%	1978	%	1979	%
Total UK produced	83,458	44.76	106,040	59.16	219,140	46.03	254,087
Total imported	103,016	55.24	73,192	40.84	256,933	53.97	214,827
Total market	186,474	100.00	179,232	100.00	476,073	100.00	468,914
Ford*	52,750	28.29	41,395	23.10	126,777	26.63	123,728
BL—Austin Morris	31,019	16.64	47,439	26.49	83,856	17.61	96,073
—Jaguar Rover Triumph	6,745	3.59	8,046	4.49	21,847	4.60	24,128
Total BL*	37,764	20.80	55,485	30.96	105,703	22.20	122,201
PSA—Citroen*	13,841	7.42	14,994	8.37	35,496	7.50	31,697
—Citroen	3,263	1.75	2,705	1.51	9,629	2.02	7,993
—Peugeot	3,573	1.92	2,101	1.17	10,183	2.14	6,469
Total PSA	20,677	11.09	19,800	11.05	55,598	11.66	44,389
GM—Vauxhall*	12,335	6.62	14,864	8.29	32,942	6.92	33,914
—Opel	2,800	1.50	1,785	1.00	7,257	1.52	4,721
—Other GM	110	0.06	119	0.07	273	0.06	153
Total GM	15,245	8.18	16,768	9.36	40,472	8.50	38,788
Renault	12,491	6.70	6,164	3.44	23,914	5.02	18,751
Datsun	10,031	5.38	9,364	5.22	25,446	5.35	23,336
Fiat	8,844	4.74	7,262	4.05	21,340	4.48	21,153
VW/Audi	6,093	3.27	5,333	2.98	19,015	3.99	15,259

\* Includes cars from companies' Continental associates which are not included in the total UK figures.  
† Includes imports from all sources, including cars from Continental associates of UK companies.

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# Crusading PM stresses employment

BY PHILIP RAWSTORNE



## 'I don't endorse Benn' says PM

MR ANTHONY Wedgwood Benn's remark that a vote for the Labour Party would be a vote against the EEC drew a curt response from the Prime Minister yesterday.

"I do not endorse Benn, he does not endorse me," he said when questioned at his Press conference about the Energy Secretary's weekend speech.

"I am not here to comment on what anyone else says. We each make our own speeches. We are not a lot of automatons in the Labour Party."

Nevertheless, he emphasised that all Labour ministers, including Mr. Benn, were marching towards the same end: to put a stop to the Common Agricultural Policy in its present form.

## Tough security

JOURNALISTS FACED the strictest security screening in post-war election history in Smith Square, London, yesterday when Labour opened the round of Press conferences.

Both main party headquarters in the normally quiet square are transformed at general elections. Yesterday, numerous police strictly regulated parking, and armed officers checked the credentials of every journalist arriving in the area. Plain clothes officers attended Mr. Callaghan's Press conference at Transport House.

## Ecology boost

THE Ecology Party, which is fighting its first general election with 32 candidates, has won five minutes of television time.

The party, which wants smaller schools, businesses and hospitals and greater decentralisation, hopes to win support for its cause rather than seats in the Commons.

## Shore attack

The Conservative proposal to offer council houses for sale at half-price was attacked yesterday by Mr. Peter Shore, Environment Secretary, as "frankly unfair."

"You owe an explanation to those trying to buy their homes at full price," he said. "You also have to be fair to the taxpayer because somebody has to pay for these half-price houses at the end of the day."

## Where appearance may deceive

BY STEWART DALRY

IN THEORY, Northern Ireland is the one part of the United Kingdom where it should be easy to predict the outcome of the election.

The Protestants of whom there are an overwhelming majority want the province to remain part of Britain, and vote for Unionist candidates.

The Roman Catholics, of whom there are 500,000, mainly want a united Ireland and vote for what should loosely be called nationalist or republican candidates.

The Protestant Unionists have been dominant for more than 50 years since the local parliament at Stormont was set up and devised the Westminster constituencies over the years to ensure Protestant majorities all round.

The inherited democracy, with population movements since 1922, meant that the Unionists could not quite guarantee majorities in all 12 seats.

In Belfast West, and Fermanagh-South Tyrone there are natural Roman Catholic majorities. Two others, Mid-Ulster and Down South, are only marginally Protestant.

But the people of Northern Ireland vote largely on sectarian lines. Other things being equal, in the Protestant heartland of north-east Ulster Mr. James Moynihan, the member for Antrim South, won 71.5 per cent of a 58 per cent turnout in the second 1974 election and

A CONSERVATIVE Government would create "deserts of unemployment" throughout the country, Mr. James Callaghan said in Glasgow last night.

In the first major speech of his election tour, the Prime Minister launched a sharp attack on Conservative proposals for cutting government subsidies to industry and employment.

Conservatives would put more than a million jobs at risk, Mr. Callaghan declared.

"There is not a single part of the UK that would not suffer from the Conservative policy of cutting the jobs programme. They would 'turn' Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and many regions of England into deserts of unemployment."

Mr. Callaghan listed more than 100,000 jobs with companies like British Steel, British Shipbuilders and Chrysler that would be "thrown away" in Scotland.

He contrasted the Tory proposals with Labour's commitment to raise the budget of the Scottish Development Agency by £500m and turn it into "a power house for Scottish employment."

Labour would also ensure that North Sea oil benefits were translated into more jobs for Scotland. "The difference between Labour and the Conservatives is that they believe the oil belongs to the multi-national

companies but we believe it belongs to the people."

"The technological changes that will sweep every country and every industry in the coming decade are sufficiently daunting by themselves," he said. "We cannot afford to hand over responsibility to a party who believe the Government's role is to drop out."

Mr. Callaghan asserted: "Every major industrial nation is involved one way or another with protecting and preserving jobs. The Conservatives' do-nothing policy would be as out of place in the competitive world of the 80's as a cavalry charge against tanks."

## Destruction

Voters would have to decide whether they wanted the work to create secure jobs to continue or to risk the destruction that would follow Tory cuts in subsidies.

Mr. Callaghan said: "When every industrial nation is wrestling with grave problems of inflation and unemployment it would be a tragedy for families in every part of our community if the Conservatives turned back the clock to the 1930s."

The speed and scale of the new industrial revolution had



increased the difficulties, Mr. Callaghan said.

"It is now more than ever vital that we have a Government able and willing to intervene positively to ensure that Britain gains and does not lose from the new industrial era."

"The amount of effort the volume of investment, the financial and technological resources required are far beyond the scope of individual firms."

"Whether we thrive or perish, whether we increase unemployment or provide more jobs—depends crucially on Government action in partner-

ship with employers and trade unions."

Mr. Callaghan renewed Labour's commitment to Scottish devolution.

"This is the devolution election," he declared—precipitated by a "marriage of convenience between Tories and Scottish Nationalists."

"Not since Laurel and Hardy was there a more comical misalliance. I warned the SNP they were turkeys—now it is up to you to carve them up in the polling booths."

## Solution

Mr. Callaghan said that the Scotland Act would remain on the statute book and the next Labour Government would reopen the offer to other parties of talks to find the best solution.

Mr. Callaghan concluded: "The difference between Labour and our opponents is that they preach yesterday's answers to yesterday's questions. Their thinking is marooned in the 1930s and their prejudice in the 19th century."

"Our programme is tuned to the 1980s and the years beyond. Britain must belong to the people. The idea of class division between masters and men is an idea whose time has come—and gone. For good."



Mr. Callaghan after yesterday's Press conference

## Callaghan promises higher spending and lower taxes

BY JOHN HUNT, PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

FURTHER REDUCTIONS in income-tax under a Labour Government may be possible at the same time as increases in public expenditure, the Prime Minister declared yesterday when he launched his party's election campaign.

"You can do both provided you do it in moderation," he told a Press conference at Transport House.

Mr. Callaghan, in cheerful and buoyant form, also announced that Labour would give the Price Commission new powers not just to freeze prices, but to reduce them where appropriate.

He disclosed that the total cost of the programme outlined last Friday would be about £2.5bn.

"National unity would be the main theme of the Labour Party in the election battle and prices would be the central issue," he said.

This contrasted with a Tory Government which, he claimed, would introduce divisive measures including the scrapping of price controls and pay policy, increases in the charge for the health service and school meals and selling out to Europe over the ridiculous Common Agricultural Policy.

Under Labour, income tax cuts would be concentrated on young people and average-paid workers by raising the starting point at which tax is paid.

Questioned on this point, he indicated that what he had in mind was a further increase in personal income tax allowances.

For the next Budget, Mr. Denis Healey, Chancellor, had made certain preparations which he had not been able to disclose.

"But you can take it that the general approach will be an increase in the allowances. We shall proceed along these lines," he said.

"My own expectations for the next five years of Labour

Government is that we have both the prospects of increasing public expenditure and of cutting taxes."

The £2.5bn cost of the manifesto programme happened to be the size of the contingency allowance made out for 1982-83.

Thus—provided there was higher production and the economy was growing at a rate of "3 per cent plus" a year—there would be room for increasing expenditure and for tax cuts.

In some areas, such as defence, the Government had already managed to reduce total expenditure at a time when the Chancellor was lowering taxes.

He saw the election struggle as "a crusade not just a campaign." As well as tax cuts and the strengthening of the Price Commission, Labour's programme of national unity would include the large increase for pensioners this autumn, abolition of TV licences for pensioners, grants and loans for first time home buyers.

The Prime Minister repeated the target of bringing inflation down to 5 per cent by 1982 but made it clear that the approach on this would be flexible.

He would be prepared to settle for a rate of 5.5 per cent or 6 per cent if it was the best that could be achieved with the co-operation of the unions.

Mr. Callaghan again stressed the manifesto undertaking to take much tougher powers to ban unjustified price increases.

The price of gas, electricity, beer and petrol had all been held down by the Price Commission. But now the proposal to reduce prices, rather than "just freeze them, would go much further."

"The Conservatives would abolish the Price Commission and so let prices rip," he alleged. "Our attitude and policy will be one of co-operation and not of conflict not only for industrial peace but to ensure fairness to all."

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## Heath revives the issues of 1974

By Ivor Owen

BRITAIN FACES a "hard uphill fight" to turn the economy round, Mr. Edward Heath said last night when he was adopted as Conservative candidate for Bexley, Sidcup.

He endorsed the view of Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Opposition leader, that an immediate start can be made by providing incentives.

The former Tory Prime Minister suggested that the country was facing the same issues that confronted it in 1974 when he failed to secure a renewed mandate.

He declared: "The British people have learnt that reality and truth cannot be avoided by turning away their faces."

"They have learnt that the Conservative Party which put to them honestly and, indeed, in as stark a way as possible, the problems which faced this country, was correct."

"The British people will heed us now."

Mr. Heath emphasised the need to find a better means of improving pay and productivity.

Economic growth was the key, he said. It could be turned off overnight, like a tap, but could not be turned on that easily.

Incentives would make possible an immediate start. They should go to those who generated wealth, to provide rewards for hard work, to encourage thrift and savings and to help industries on which Britain's future industrial growth must depend.

## Heseltine attacks Labour claims of compassion

BY ELINOR GOODMAN, LOBBY STAFF

MR MICHAEL HESELTINE, shadow Environment Secretary and, for a day at least, shadow media attraction, drove a well-polished knife right into the heart of Labour's crowded boasts yesterday.

To claim Labour was the party that cared, he argued, was a hoax and a fraud. In reality, it was only the Conservative Party that had the ability to "turn caring into doing" by creating the wealth necessary to pay for a caring society.

Taking up a theme made in some of the party's most successful party political broadcasts last year, he accused Labour of failing to translate their pious words into action. All too often their very incompetence got in the way.

And if that did not, then, he implied, there were enough selfish Labour supporters lurking in the union movement to undermine the party's claims of compassion.

He demanded to know what kind of caring it was that banished hospital beds to the sick and treated patients as pawns.

With Mrs. Thatcher being held in reserve until tomorrow, it was left to Mr. Heseltine to provide the main thrust of the media counter-battle to Mr. Callaghan yesterday.

Apparently, he had been chosen partly because the Conservative strategists regard him as the nearest thing they have got to Mohammed Ali—good-looking and quick on his feet—and partly by accident of Central Office's engagements system.

Certainly, it was as well Mrs. Thatcher herself had not gone along. The meeting was held at Wandsworth Constitutional Club where women are allowed beyond a thin brass line on the floor only by special dispensation and may not buy drinks.

Billed as an election meeting, it turned into a fully-fledged media event with assorted

lunch-time drinkers and party workers separated from their hero by a barricade of cameras and lights.

Mr. Heseltine was persuaded to time his speech at exactly the right moment to catch the fourth spot on the one o'clock news.

Mr. Heseltine began by launching his attack on the "myth" that Labour was the party that cared.

The Socialists might have a genuine desire to help the least fortunate, but, he intoned: "By their fruits ye shall know them."

In his opinion, the fruits of Labour were clearly nothing to be proud of.

He then went on to repeat—almost word for word—the part of his Saturday speech outlining his party's policies on council house sales.

The detail was too much for the TV crews and halfway through, the hum of cameras came to an abrupt end. Mr.

## Costs of direct labour criticised

By Rhys David, Northern Correspondent

AIMS, the pro-Conservative pressure group, has fired its first shot of the election campaign with a strong attack on the direct labour building department in Manchester—one of the biggest in the UK with a total workforce of 4,300.

In a report published yesterday, Mr. Malcolm Hoppe, an economist, accuses the Manchester department of being reluctant to face direct competition from private builders, of inefficiency, and of preserving jobs at ratepayers' expense.

The report—intended to act as a further challenge to Labour plans to extend direct works and to nationalise parts of the building industry—accuses Manchester of failing to follow a Government recommendation that a considerable proportion of direct labour work should be won in competition.

"In 1977-78, direct labour appears to have obtained only four small housing projects by submitting its estimates for direct comparison with builders' tenders."

These projects totalled only 101 houses worth £382,000—or less than 2.5 per cent of the department's expenditure in that year," it says.

The margin by which it had won competitive tenders had been lower than that recommended by the chartered body covering public finance. In some cases, tenders accepted from the department had been higher than those from contracting firms.

## Pym warns of Communist threat

BY JOHN HUNT

BRITAIN SHOULD take a new initiative with the U.S., the EEC and friendly African countries to halt the spread of Communism in Africa, Mr. Francis Pym, the Conservative foreign affairs spokesman, urged yesterday.

He also maintained that if the forthcoming Rhodesian elections take place in reasonably free and fair conditions, then Britain should do everything possible to secure international recognition for the new state.

Mr. Pym, who could be the new Foreign Secretary if the Tories get power, told party workers in Cambridgeshire that the threat of Communism had never loomed larger in Africa.

Britain should join with the other states in a new concerted policy.

This would give the strongest encouragement and support to democratic solutions to African problems. It would also oppose any attempts to deprive the African peoples of genuine independence.

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## Liberals aim at 'wedge' of 50 MPs

BY IVOR OWEN

REALISTIC ASSESSMENT of the Liberals' election prospects suggests that the party might have up to 50 MPs in the new House of Commons, Mr. David Steel, the party leader, told a Press conference in London yesterday.

Such a "powerful wedge," he declared, would prevent excesses by a Conservative or Labour Government, with every constituency captured by the Liberals representing another nail in the coffin of failed confrontation politics.

Casting aside dreams of becoming the first party leader since Asquith to form a Liberal

Ministry, Mr. Steel abandoned the 1974 concept of a "Liberal Government or nothing" in favour of what he termed the more realistic proposition of the wedge.

He reaffirmed his willingness to enter discussions with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher or Mr. James Callaghan should the voting on May 3 result in either of them heading the largest single party in the Commons—without an overall majority.

Mr. Steel said that the purpose of such talks would be to agree a common programme. However, the Liberals would

link with neither big party if, as would have been the case when Mr. Edward Heath approached Mr. Jeremy Thorpe in March 1974, the resulting alliance failed to produce a majority in the Commons.

His hopes of securing the election of the largest number of Liberal MPs seen at Westminster since the war did not rest on "ludicrous" optimism generated by the by-election success at Liverpool, Edge Hill, late last month.

Edge Hill, he said, had demonstrated what could be achieved in seats where the Liberals had prepared for

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Freddie Hanfield

VOTES ARE the target, and the "battle bus" a mobile headquarters for Mr. David Steel, Liberal leader, seen stepping aboard to take his campaign into Newbury and Thatcham. His general election tour will take him to every region in the country. The specially commissioned coach (left) includes a separate lounge for Mr. Steel, equipped with radio, television, two televisions sets, electric typewriter and photocopier.

The coach has its own wash-room, power generator and public address system.



## THE JOBS COLUMN

## International managers — official progress

BY MICHAEL DIXON

PAR beyond counting are the words spoken by assorted eminences about the United Kingdom's urgent need of more people capable of marketing and managing in other countries and cultures. At least every other day this column receives added evidence that the eminences, in his particular claim, are right: to what a stupidity it is that I have to report.

Gerry Earls is one such internationally capable managerial worker. Some time ago he decided to change from being a jet-lagged consultant, and to become a lecturer at Middlesex Polytechnic with a particular view to replacing himself many times over by teaching skills of cross-cultural management work.

In 1972 he began to set up jointly with the business school at Rheims in France a course in European business administration during which a mixture of French and British students could study together the best practices of both countries and equip themselves to work in either with equal facility.

About 15 of each nationality start at Rheims, spending two years in France including a two-month period in industry or commerce, then transferring to Middlesex Poly for a further two years including five months working in a British concern. Another group of about 15 from each country start at Middlesex

and proceed the other way round.

At the end the successful British students gain a degree, and their French counterparts a "diplôme". But unlike the UK education authorities which look down on a course unless almost all of its students emerge with a qualification, the French think a course cannot be much good unless it has a high failure rate. So among the bottom-placed students, the French get nothing at all whereas the British are awarded a third-class degree.

Entrants from the UK start with disadvantages. Mr. Earls told the Association of Teachers of Management conference in Cambridge the other day. The British must have Ordinary-level pass grades in the General Certificate of Education including both French and mathematics, and a GCE Advanced-level pass in one or the other. But they still generally need to be brought up to scratch in French language, maths and "logical skills".

But before long they are mostly holding their own—the language problem, for example, disappears after about four to six months of the course and at the end, to judge by the first graduates who emerged last summer, they are in great demand on the jobs market. Thus the Middlesex-Rheims

joint venture seems to be that rare phenomenon: an educational programme producing culturally-transferable people whom employers really want.

Would you think, remembering the public pronouncements of the need for increased capability in international business, that the UK education authorities are encouraging British youngsters to take the joint programme? Of course not.

## Year only

The UK students are not even entitled to the "mandatory" grants given readily and as of right to teenagers pursuing degrees in such topics as drama with sociology, or biblical studies with ancient history. Instead, the would-be international managers are left to hope that their humble application for some sort of grant will catch their local authority in a generous mood and with a bit of spare cash in the pot. And the fact that local authorities tend to be tight-fisted with such "discretionary" grants is something Government Ministers regularly complain about.

The reason for this stupid denial is thought to be the view in officialdom that mandatory grants should not be available to people whose studies require them to spend more than a year overseas.

Possibly the bureaucrats fear that by encouraging a longer time abroad, they might lead the better students into deciding not to come back. If so, the bureaucrats have a point. "It would be a bit naive," said Gerry Earls, "when you get out to produce internationally capable managers, to think that you're going to get many of them to work in Britain as things are at present."

Any such reluctance to export the educational benefits of UK taxpayers' money by way of the Middlesex-Rheims enterprise, however, chimes weirdly with officialdom's actions in other instances.

Given 120 British students on the joint course at any one time, the total sum at stake—at the top rate of mandatory grant to be paid in 1979-80—would be £178,200 a year. But the Government admitted only last month that "well over £100m" of UK taxpayers' money is being used annually to subsidise the higher education in Britain of students from overseas. And most of these students come from the richer families in their home countries, and often also from rich territories such as the Middle East, the U.S. and Hong Kong. Indeed, the average subsidy enjoyed by each foreign youngster studying here seems to be getting on for £100 more than the highest rate of manda-

tory grant, which officialdom denies to its citizens who wish to take Mr. Earls's course.

The standard defence of the handsome hand-outs to students from overseas is that the subsidy will be returned with interest later, by the students' grateful urge to buy British after they have returned to take up influential positions in their own land.

If this claim is true (which I heartily doubt) it must surely be even more true of the British-bred people who go to managerial jobs abroad after gaining their bachelor's degree on the Middlesex-Rheims programme.

Moreover, the restriction of grant finance applied to bachelor-level students who spend more than a year overseas, does not seem to be applied at higher-degree level. Goodness knows how much UK taxpayers are forking out to assist people pursuing doctorate degrees by frequent overseas investigation of crucial phenomena like—to borrow the immortal phrase of Dr. Arthur Earls — wife-swapping in Pogoland.

The reason for the denial of the mandatory grant is not a failure by the course-organisers to let the bureaucrats know what is wanted. Gerry Earls told the conference that he has been vainly asking the education authorities for his required extension of the grant since

1974. But neither, apparently, is the reason necessarily any official disbelief in the value of the joint programme.

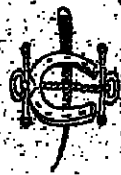
The programme may have been partly what was in the governmental mind late last year when provisions touching upon grants for students on "certain courses provided in conjunction with overseas institutions" were included in some newly proposed legislation.

A check with the Department of Education and Science indicates that the legislation itself would certainly not have granted the dearest wish of Mr. Earls and his UK students. But it would at least have given officialdom some basis on which to debate whether or not to make available the grant finance which the course-organisers have been requesting for the past five years. Unfortunately, however, that particular piece of legislation had still not reached the House of Lords before Parliament dissolved for the General Election. So the legislative process will have to start all over again, and whether and if so when the enabling provisions will be reintroduced, nobody can be sure.

All of which points to a final, important question. With a bureaucracy like this, who needs bailiffs?

(The next Jobs Column should appear on April 24.)

## The Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club



## DEPUTY FINANCE DEPARTMENT MANAGER

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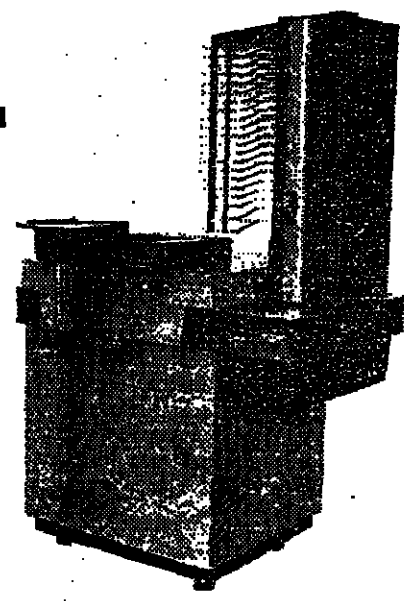
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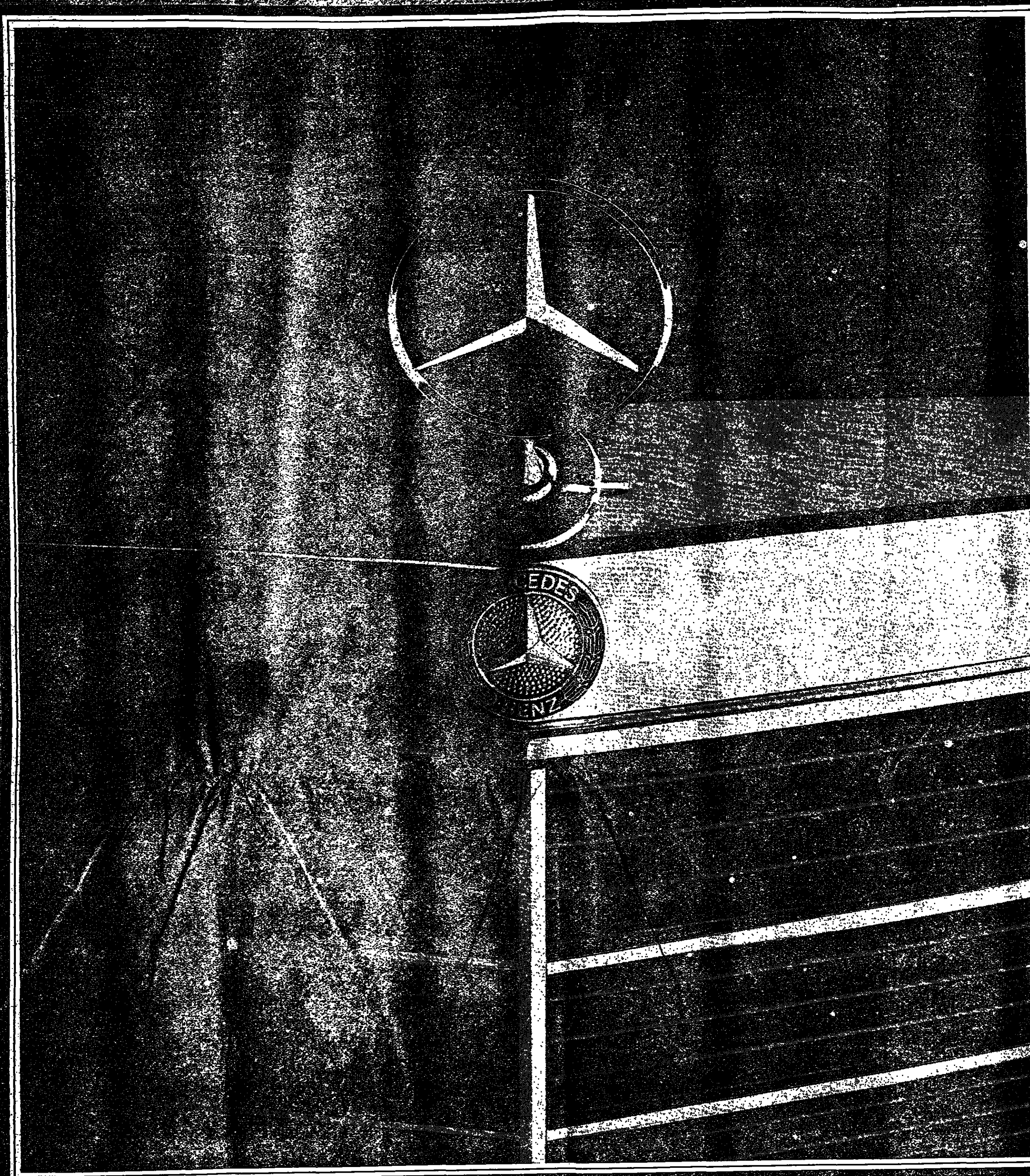
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Mercedes-Benz



# Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

## CONSTRUCTION

### Heat kept at bay

PROMISING a solution to the problems of heat gain and solar glare in contemporary architectural design—particularly in offices, schools, hospitals, hotels, etc., where glass is extensively used—millionaire Dutch ship-builder, Cornelis Verolme, first introduced Verosol fabric back in the mid-sixties.

It has a "silver lining," actually aluminium... bonded by a secret patented process to thin polyester net. This sun-screen curtaining not only protects against irritating glare, but also prevents the resultant rise in temperature within a building. The latter often has a disturbing effect on the comfort—or in the case of work places—the efficiency of occupants.

The material had an outstanding success in Spain, where it was first introduced, and then proved to be a boon in Europe, the U.S., South America, Australasia and particularly in the Middle East—possibly one of the severest tests of its solar barrier properties.

There is very little loss of light from a semi-transparent version of the curtaining (or blinds made from the material) which allows a pleasant diffused daylight to enter through a window.

Intending to complement the

atmosphere of computer rooms, laboratories, museums, telephone centres, etc., there is now a new range of patterned Verosol made by the company in Enschede, Holland, and marketed in this country by C. Nathan and Co., 24 Lisson Grove, London NW1. (01-262 1121).

Selection includes a choice of floral, prints and a striped design, all offering the same solar barrier properties as the company's familiar, original plain-coloured range.

Reverse, or window-side, of all patterns has the uniform silvery sheen of the metallic coating to which the curtains owe their sun-screen properties.

Although the introductory patterns now available have been specifically chosen for their suitability to the British market, says the company, special designs can be produced provided that a sufficient quantity is ordered.

Most production is destined for contract work, yet the appeal of the new patterns inevitably suggests another area for the product—the domestic market. Offering a saving up to 30 per cent of heat loss through windows, Verosol promises an alternative to double-glazing methods for DIY enthusiasts.

or thermodynamic types. Typical steam losses via a single trap in an industrial process could cost a company upwards of £3,000 per annum.

Bestobell Steam Products, Scotland, part of the £85m International Engineering and Chemical group, has come up with a simple solution, the Delta steam trap, which is a single bladed thermostatic type manufactured at its new £2m plant in Scotland.

The trap has a bimetal element whose delta-like shape deflects in three dimensions, and whose response thanks to the use of two dissimilar grades of stainless steel, one ferritic and the other austenitic, follows the steam temperature-pressure curve.

With increasing temperature the cross-sectional "moment of inertia" of the element increases, linearising the high force which shuts off the valve in linear. The unit automatically optimises its opening position to meet the exact water condensate load to be discharged.

This has resulted in a design of steam trap which eliminates live steam losses and, through the integral strainer, check valve and optional sight glass, minimises installation costs.

Bestobell Steam Products, Livingston, Scotland. Livingston (0589) 30101.

## IN THE OFFICE



Every two seconds, the plain paper copier shown here will turn out a reproduction of an original which can be a photograph, another photograph, a manuscript and so on. Olivetti's Copia 2000 will tackle poor quality documents and can cope with a maximum size of A3, automatically printing on both sides of the paper. Up to 99 copies can be turned out in one go on standard bond paper, fed automatically from one of two cassettes. The unit can work in conjunction with the company's on-line sorter with its 20 baskets to provide a complete system with ability to deal with bulky multiple-page documents. British Olivetti on 01-629 8807.

### Clean copy made quickly

HIGH QUALITY high speed printers, one aimed at the word processing market and the other at data communications applications have been announced by Centronics Data Computer (UK), Harrington Road, London SW7 3HA. (01-581 1011).

Model 733 is claimed to have print quality near to that of the best typewriter reproduction but at the same time has high throughput due to its print rate of 130 to 150 characters per second. Together with proportional spacing to compensate for character size differences and automatic line justification, the machine is likely to be particularly attractive to word processing users. The dot matrix used is nine dots high and up to 18 wide for large characters, giving dense, well-formed characters.

### Dictator is diminutive

CLAIM MADE by Lanier, the U.S. electronics company, is that its latest portable dictation machine, the VPS-60, is the smallest and lightest on the market, at 4.1 x 2.5 x 1.0 inches and 8.5 oz.

Making use of a micro-cassette the machine can give an hour's dictation time and is simple to use by virtue of a single slider control for record, stop, re-wind and playback functions. A thumbwheel controls the playback volume; on record, a light-emitting diode is energised and the electret

microphone, with automatic gain control is claimed to be sensitive enough to pick up a whispered conversation at 80 feet.

An optional charger is available if nickel cadmium batteries are used, and the unit can be operated from the mains via an optional adaptor. Other accessories include a personal listening headset, lapel microphone and telephone pick-up. More from the UK subsidiary, Lanier Business Products, 100, New King's Road, London SW6 4LX. (01 736 0171).

## SECURITY

### Pinpoints a villain

EUPHEMISTICALLY called "shrinkage" and growing at around £50m a year, shoplifting is costing high street stores—and thus in the end the shopper—a staggering £650m annually. Shop-owners have built these losses into the prices they charge and it is estimated that, as a result, these prices are between 2½ and 4 per cent higher than they need be.

A number of attempts have been made to create equipment that will make it particularly difficult to get out of a store with valuable goods by tagging. But where crowds of people flock through a department during peak periods, a great deal of difficulty can be created for store owners where an alarm goes off, but the culprit is in the middle of a bunch of shoppers, as he or she would normally take care to be.

Now, a device which is very difficult to shield electronically from detection equipment and not easy to conceal, is being offered with detectors that not only give audible and visual warning that a thief is trying to get away with a tagged object.

## MATERIALS

### Draining the static

BESIDES being an irritation, the static electricity spark discharge that almost everyone working in centrally heated buildings must have noticed can also constitute a hazard in modern digital equipment.

Rather like Hertz's original spark transmitter, the static spark induces sympathetic pulses in nearby electronic circuits and connectors and can induce data errors.

Already producing conductive mats for use in semiconductor plants, 3M, PO Box 1, Bracknell, Berks RG12 1JU (0344 26726), can now supply a tough, durable variety for use on floors rather than benches. The company claims that these Velostat mats will not crack due to the wearing effect of chair casters and will accept heavy office traffic.

The new 1850 series of mats, one-eighth inch thick and available in three sizes up to 8 x 4 ft, contain finely embossed material to resist curling and are unaffected by age or room humidity. Each is supplied with a 10 ft earthing cord incorporating a 1 megohm resistor.

## INSTRUMENT

### Finds the wave height

DEVELOPED by EMI Offshore Systems, Albert Drive, Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey (04862 76123), a compact wave height monitor can be bolted to any fixed structure such as an oil rig and pointed at the sea surface to give a reliable and accurate reading of wave height.

Applications will arise in experimental weather-related structure assessments and in general meteorological work. Basis of the measurement is the time taken for a transmitted pulse of infra-red light to be reflected from the sea surface. A high pulse repetition rate and

a beam width of only one degree ensure that the wave profile is followed accurately. A series of internal filters minimises the effect of sunlight and spurious signals from rain and spray. Maximum range is 80 metres and the overall accuracy is ±1 per cent for operations between 10 and 50 metres. Output is an analogue voltage representing instantaneous wave height. The compact cast aluminium housing measures only 300 mm by 200 mm and weighs less than 4 kg. A 12-volt DC supply and signal cable enter via a water-tight gland.

Further details from Parmeko, Percy Road, Leicester LE2 6FT, 0533 832267.

## METALWORKING

### Big shape drawn in a single pass

SMG hydraulic press division of Schuler Presses is claiming a technical breakthrough in the production of the welded type of acetylene gas storage cylinder as used in the UK.

Utilising the hydro-mechanical drawing process pioneered and developed by SMG, a blank of 825 mm dia. x 3.5 mm thick is converted into a half-cylinder 550 mm long x 280 mm dia. in a single drawing operation. Material thinning is held to within 8 per cent of the nominal blank thickness during the process, which can run at a production rate of one component per minute.

Initial trials show that savings in production costs are generated, since one complete drawing operation is eliminated together with subsequent inter-stage annealing, manufacturing method.

Meanwhile, following exhaustive investigations within world-wide press manufacturing companies, the SMG subsidiary of L. Schuler was the preferred choice of Rubery Owen (Metal Assemblies).

Initial trials have vindicated that decision. The application of the hydro-mechanical drawing process to the production of dissolved acetylene cylinders was successfully developed in a co-operative effort by teams from both companies, led by Mr. R. F. Darby, director and general works manager of Rubery Owen (Metal Assemblies) and Mr. H. Molt, head of tooling, production and development of L. Schuler.

Further details from SMG at Sandford Place, Church Street, Salop SY6 6DY. 06942 2532.

## ENERGY

### Waste oil recovery

DRAIN ON the world's petroleum reserves could be reduced by an estimated 100m barrels a year, according to the Phillips Petroleum Company, which is promoting an improved method of treating waste engine lubricating oils and converting them into high-quality products, rather than burn or dump them.

Based on present lubricating oil prices, if its full potential could be realised, the method could save between \$20m and \$30m a year.

"PROP, the Phillips Re-refined Oil Process, is intended to convert waste lubricants into products comparable with new oils, but also to be as compatible as possible with environmental demands. It provides chemical demetallisation of contaminants into insoluble precipitates without using strong acids or solvents and metal removal takes place at low pressures and moderate temperatures.

Water removal pre-treatment of the waste oil is not needed, while ash-forming contaminants and residual constituents (metallic additives) are largely removed prior to hydro-treat-

ing, thus reducing the bulk of filter cake for disposal.

Solid wastes from the process are of much smaller volume than the sludges and other wastes from older processes. They also exhibit a soil-like neutrality and resistance to soil leaching.

In the process, waste oil is first contacted (in-line blending) with an aqueous solution of ammonium phosphate. Subsequent reactions result in the formation of metallic phosphates which have low solubility in either water or oil. Water and a significant portion of the fuel diluent are removed in the second and third stages of the reaction.

At this point metal removal is basically complete, except for the zinc and phosphorus present as zinc dithiophosphate—the anti-oxidant additive in the original oil. Temperature cycling brings about thermal degradation of a substantial portion of this compound and agglomerates much of the finely dispersed solids in preparation for their subsequent removal by filtration.

The demetallised and dehydrated oil, with 99 per cent or more of its ash-forming materials removed, is heated, mixed with recirculating hydrogen, percolated through a guard

bed of clay and hydrotreated over a conventional nickel-molybdate catalyst. The guard bed removes traces of inorganics and promotes the decomposition of sulphonic acids.

The finished product is a base oil suitable to use in the blending of motor oils or other lubricants or for marketing as a neutral base oil.

Further data from Phillips Petroleum Company Europe-Africa, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DA. Telephone 01-828 9766.

### Efficient steam trap

STEAM is the most economical method of storing and distributing large amounts of energy for industrial power and heating, but while boiler and turbine manufacturers can contribute to reducing unavoidable losses by better design and selection, avoidable losses remain in the hands of the plant engineer.

Research has shown that by far the greatest contribution to factory fuel losses is inefficient or wrongly selected steam traps, which traditionally have been either mechanical float, bucket

# Q.

## Business information...

### where can I get the answers I need?

The Financial Times, as the businessman's newspaper, is probably one of your prime sources of information. But often, you will need to go deeper and cast the net wider; and, to that end, the FT can help you even more by putting its own information centre at your disposal.

Over the years we have built up an extensive library and a network of information contacts which is almost certainly unequalled elsewhere in the business community. We have developed a research centre of people experienced at using these resources and matching them to particular business needs.

This FT information service can now be made available to a further limited number of subscribers who will be given direct access to the research staff through an ex-directory number.

The scope of our service is so broad that it is best explained through demonstration and discussion, but two examples of how our current clients make use of the service may help to clarify the possibilities.

#### Client A: A Merchant Bank

A merchant bank finds we can supply the back-up information needed to analyse individual companies as prospects for investment and loans. Not only in the form of 'hard' detail on the published financial standing of a company but also the 'soft' information gathered from press coverage of their

policies, the people who own and run the company and their new product development stance. Sometimes the information available to the FT information service is so 'live' it has not yet percolated through to the business community at large. The bank also finds we are the authoritative source of foreign exchange rates, which are often needed as far back as 5-10 years.

#### Client B: A leading Advertising Agency

A leading Advertising Agency looks to us for information on new markets which are being investigated for the agency's clients, and data is drawn from many sources gathered together at the FT. Interpretation and analysis of the information is also provided when required. Frequently this research has to extend beyond the UK and here our worldwide network of contacts becomes extremely useful. The agency also finds we can brief them on organisations who are their potential clients, right down to autobiographical details on the senior managers.

There are of course, many other possibilities and our clients cover the entire field of business and industry. It would certainly be in your company's interests to join the exclusive circle of well-informed organisations we serve. Why not telephone the Financial Times Business Information Service and discuss the facilities in greater detail with us.

# A.

## From the FT Business Information Service

Call Beverley Corke or Julie Williams on 01-248 8000 Ext. 7087 or 334 for further details.

If you would prefer to have a brochure... please have your secretary type or print your name and address below and send it to Beverley Corke at:

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## The Derby Portfolio

The bicentenary of the Epsom Derby this year is to be commemorated by the publication of an historic official limited edition of fine-art prints—a portfolio which honours the six greatest horses ever to have won the Derby.

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The horses chosen are each in their own way legends of classic racing: Ormonde, Bahram, Pinza, Sea Bird, Nijinsky, and Mill Reef.

The Derby Portfolio comprises six superb fine-art prints taken from original paintings of each horse, by some of the world's most celebrated equine artists—from Emil Adam's Ormonde to Susan Crawford's Mill Reef.

Only 850 complete sets are to be published, each numbered and individually certified. Because it is an official commemorative edition, each picture additionally will bear the magnificent bicentenary seal which will symbolise this year's race.

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# THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

Nicholas Leslie on a rubber company which has put its faith and money behind two entrepreneurs

## Venturing into the risky world of travel

IN FIVE to seven years time David Miller and John Sutcliffe could be wealthy young men. If so, Yule Catto—a company with sizeable interests in Malaysian rubber plantations—will find itself enjoying the fruits of a significant diversification into the travel business.

But there is a long hard road to travel if such success is to materialise. The current position is that, stepping into a field more commonly associated with financial institutions, Yule Catto has provided venture capital to enable Miller and Sutcliffe to acquire Curzon Travel, a small travel agency in Finner, just outside London.

The amount involved is £100,000—not an enormous sum, perhaps, in relation to Yule Catto's current substantial liquid resources, but sizeable enough given the risks involved. Yule Catto's sales last year totalled £12.7m, on which it earned pre-tax profits of £2.5m.

There is nothing that immediately sets Curzon apart from other travel agents, other than the fact that it is reasonably profitable. What the investment illustrates is how, in the final analysis, an investor of venture capital can as often put his faith in people as in an idea.

The pay-off for Miller and Sutcliffe will come if they achieve pre-determined levels of profits. Then they can elect

to sell their equity in Yule Catto, which would eventually end up with total control.

This is the first time Yule Catto has become involved in this type of financing, and it has elected to do so with the sort of investment that most financial institutions prefer to avoid (as, indeed, they did in this particular case).

The travel agency involved has, like many others, a small asset base; the industry generally is acknowledged to be something of a minefield; a large number of agencies are reckoned to be barely profitable; and the founder of Curzon has been bought out, with Miller and Sutcliffe replacing him as effectively the sole senior management. The two men are completely new to the travel business.

### Award

So why has Yule Catto taken such a risky step? (For the answer one must go back to last autumn when Miller and Sutcliffe won the "entrepreneurship and new ventures" section of the Cranfield Management School's annual MBA programme. In this section, spanning half the year-long course, participants are given the opportunity of putting together a thesis on a viable business proposition which, given the opportunity, they could launch as a going concern.)

The success of Miller and Sutcliffe, 32, together with details of their plans for a "One Stop Travel Shop," were outlined on this page on September 19. Miller already had a business background, having several years ago started an employment agency chain which he later sold, though remaining as managing director. He then resigned to attend the

Cranfield MBA course and look for a new career. For 10 years Sutcliffe worked for accountants Peat Marwick Mitchell and Co. in their London, Atlanta (U.S.) and Brussels offices and attended Cranfield for reasons similar to Miller's.

John Cox, company secretary of Yule Catto (and also a Cranfield graduate), recognised Sutcliffe as a former colleague at Peat Marwick. He told Annesley Keown, vice-chairman of Yule Catto, and other executive directors of the company about Miller and Sutcliffe's plans and their search for funds. This led to their discussing the project with the company's non-executive directors and setting their agreement to explore the possibility of backing the travel agency—which Miller and Sutcliffe located through their solicitor while at Cranfield.

Until that point Yule Catto had had no thought of travel as an area of diversification, its strategic planning having been aimed primarily at moving into areas related to existing business. In line with this concept, a move was made last year into export trading. It does, though, have some interest in the leisure industry through ownership of two boat marinas.

Meanwhile, Miller and Sutcliffe, having failed to interest any of the banking organisations they had approached, had already been looking at industrial and other non-financial companies as a possible source of financial backing. They had had some initially positive responses.

When negotiations got under way between Yule Catto and Miller and Sutcliffe, some hard talking ensued. As Kenneth Waters, Yule Catto's finance director (and, incidentally, another business graduate from the London Business School) explains, Miller and Sutcliffe were subjected to a number of "destructive" questions to find weaknesses in their project. Yule Catto, he says, drew on the considerable research done by Miller and Sutcliffe on the travel industry, but still carried out its own research. In so doing it confirmed many of the two men's views, including the reasons why agencies fail—for example, by committing themselves too heavily with such things as forward bookings on hotel rooms and aircraft flights, for which they may then not find enough customers.

Keown makes it clear that while Yule Catto is now fully committed to the concept of the travel business, what it is essentially backing in this case is the people involved. "Our initial reaction to travel agencies," he says, "was that a lot of people have buried their fingers. But, we add, 'these chaps have got some great ideas.'"

These ideas include employing individuals as agents who will work on a commission-only basis and who will make home

## CURZON TRAVEL



John Sutcliffe (left) and David Miller—a long hard road to travel for big success.

calls to sell holidays and travel facilities. Miller maintains that this method is ideal for providing a "tailored" service, while Sutcliffe suggests that this also "extends the selling radius of a shop, which is normally quite narrow."

There are also, quite naturally, plans to expand the amount of business travel Curzon handles—indeed, a start has already been made and they have added such business in the short time since they took over the reins. Business travel, if it is the right mix of short and long haul trips, can be very profitable, but the demands made of an agency by the client company can be considerable. Miller reckons that they will be able to handle any problems that arise and that, as the business grows, more sophisticated systems to ensure a trouble-free service will be introduced.

The smooth handover of the business from its founder, Mr. A. Curzon, to Miller and Sutcliffe, has just been completed with the ratification of the transfer to its new owners of its International Air Transport Association licence.

But this alone does not enable Curzon to get into the big league on which it has set its eyes. That will require not only the addition of further branches but, more important, also an Air Tour Operator's Licence, which enables the holder to have a direct involvement in tour organisation. Curzon hopes this stage will be reached in the not too distant future. In the meantime, it is working in association with an existing licence holder to give it more flexibility. It is also a member of the Association of British Travel Agents.

### Agreement

However, such licences do carry with them a heavy financial obligation in that both require cash bonds to be put up, for example ten per cent of projected annual turnover in the case of the ATOL licence. Miller reckons that Yule Catto's backing will be a major advantage in this respect.

The financial agreement reached between Yule Catto and Miller and Sutcliffe gives the former a 55 per cent holding in the £27,500 equity of Curzon—the "trivial holding" that it has not entered into for a business.

The balance of the equity is split equally between Miller and Sutcliffe. For it they have paid £10,000, with the balance being payable over three years. Yule Catto's £100,000 is represented by both equity capital and loan.

A major advantage of the deal for Miller and Sutcliffe is the formula by which they can realise their investment if they should so wish. This is increasingly a stumbling block for entrepreneurs because, with the Stock Market offering few attractions in recent years thanks to dividend controls as well as increasing regulations and legislation (actual and potential), realisation of an investment has become a problem. Also, many large companies are more inclined to consider disinvestment of smaller subsidiaries than expansion by acquisition.

### Formula

The formula agreed is that when pre-tax profits of Curzon reach £100,000 Miller and Sutcliffe can sell 20 per cent of the equity to Yule Catto at a price to be determined by an independent valuation. Then, when profits reach £400,000 they can sell the other 25 per cent they own. The decision is entirely their own.

Miller and Sutcliffe have set their sights on hitting the £400,000 profits level within five to seven years. Last year's figure was around £30,000. However, Yule Catto has decided to retain an early let-out agreement. Should it feel that the partnership is not working by this October it can elect to sell its investment to Miller and Sutcliffe, giving them six months to find the necessary money.

Neither Yule Catto nor Miller and Sutcliffe seem to think that this is likely. Keown is fully committed to Curzon and to the prospect of it eventually becoming a significant arm of Yule Catto's business.

Unlike many industrialists, Keown is committed to the concept of industrial companies considering venture capital investment—he feels that if they have sizeable resources they can afford the risk, and that dealing with such ventures need not take up a disproportionate amount of senior management time.

## How Europe's top 100 companies fare in the reporting stakes

BY MARTIN GIBBS

THE most useful book published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales is the annual Survey of Published Accounts. This summarises the principal accounting recommendations issued by the Accounting Standards Committee and, with the help of numerous examples, shows how the top 300 UK companies have complied with the recommendations.

Michael Lafferty, who is the Financial Times' accounting and banking correspondent, aided by David Cairns of Stoy Hayward and Jim Carty, the secretary of the Accounting Standards Committee, has set out to produce an equally useful book covering the top 100 European (including UK) companies. To a large extent he has succeeded.

The first sections of the book deal with accounting policies. Each contains a summary of the relevant recommendation by the International Accounting Standards Committee (by the end of 1978 there were 14 of these) followed by an analysis of the treatment adopted by the survey companies.

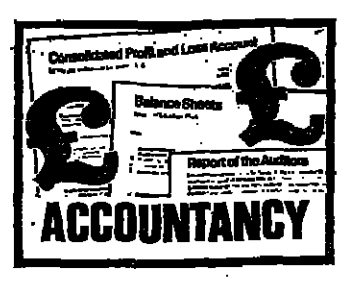
Subsequent sections include reproductions of the accounts published by one company from each of the 11 countries covered. These show the balance sheet, profit and loss account, source and application of funds statement, and (in some cases) notes to the accounts. Many readers will be glad to find that they are all in English.

The final sections deal with auditing, the disclosure of financial and non-financial information, and an analysis of the "timeliness" of annual reports.

The latest annual report from each company was assessed on nine criteria (the highest marks were given for full consolidated accounts and disclosure of acceptable accounting policies) and an overall ranking was then obtained. The top company was, not unexpectedly, Philips. The fact that Svenska Cellulosa, a relatively unknown Swedish pulp and paper company, came second is much more surprising. The top British company was ICI. It was ranked sixth, with Alzco, Unilever, and Royal Dutch-Shell having taken the intervening places.

The countries were ranked in order of quality. The UK came top, followed by the Netherlands, the bottom countries were Spain and Italy.

To avoid hurting anybody's feelings, the wooden spoon was



is reproduced in full, runs to 10 pages.

For lack of better information, the "timeliness" of company reports was measured by calculating the number of days between the year-end and the date of signature of the audit report. The average was just under 100 days in most countries, but there were some striking differences between companies. The quickest audit report was that of Marks and Spencer, signed in 33 days. The slowest was Solvay's (7 months, 15 days). The second slowest was that of Great Universal Stores (6 months, 28 days).

The authors admit, however, that this is a far from perfect basis of comparison. A fairer basis would be the number of days between the year-end and the date of publication of the annual report. This was still only 35 days for Marks and Spencer.

To summarise, the book performs an extremely useful function and although it seems expensive at £75 (£60 for subscribers to World Accounting Report) it will be indispensable for anyone wishing to see how UK accounting fits into the wider context of European reporting practices. It is only a pity that the quality of the presentation does not match up to the quality of the contents. The pages are reproduced from typescript and bound with a plastic spine. This may well reflect the desire to publish as rapidly as possible, but the result is a product whose appearance is much below that of the Chartered Accountants' annual survey of UK accounts.

The authors do not commit themselves to following the Chartered Accountants by making their book an annual. However, it is to be hoped that they will do so, since material of this nature dates very rapidly. If further editions are prepared, consideration should be given to widening the scope of the book by including some of the other major countries, such as the U.S. and Japan, possibly at the expense of some of the smaller European countries.

Accounting is becoming increasingly international and to take anything less than a global view of reporting practices seems too parochial.

1979 Financial Times Survey of 100 Major European Companies' Reports and Accounts. By Michael Lafferty with David Cairns and James Carty. FT Business Publishing, Minster House, Arthur Street, London EC4, £75.

Martin Gibbs is a partner in stockbrokers Phillips and Drew.

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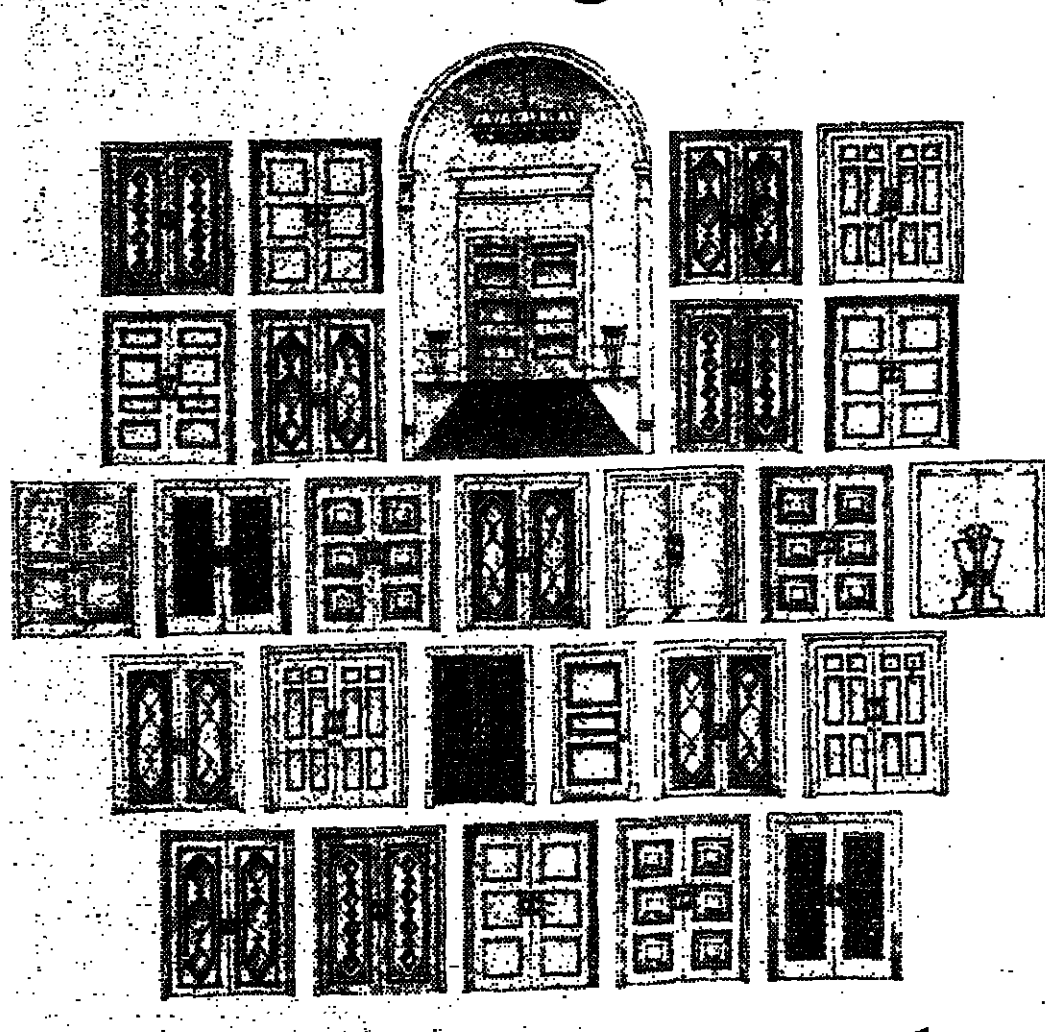
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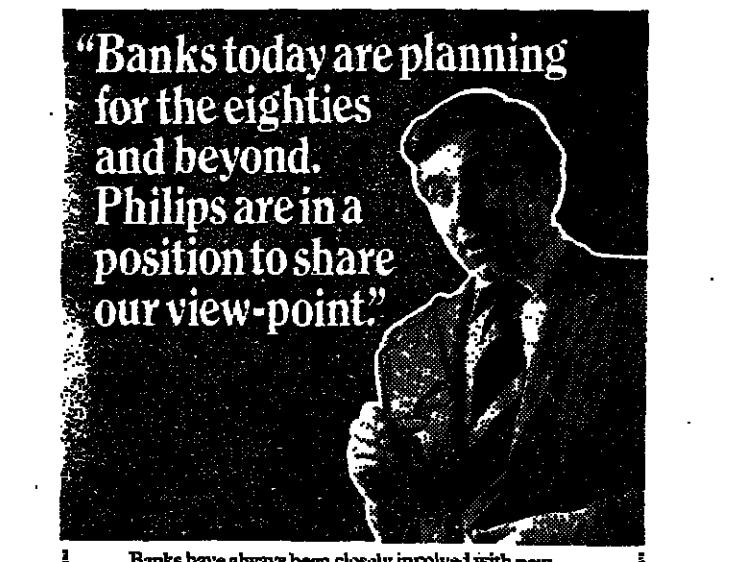


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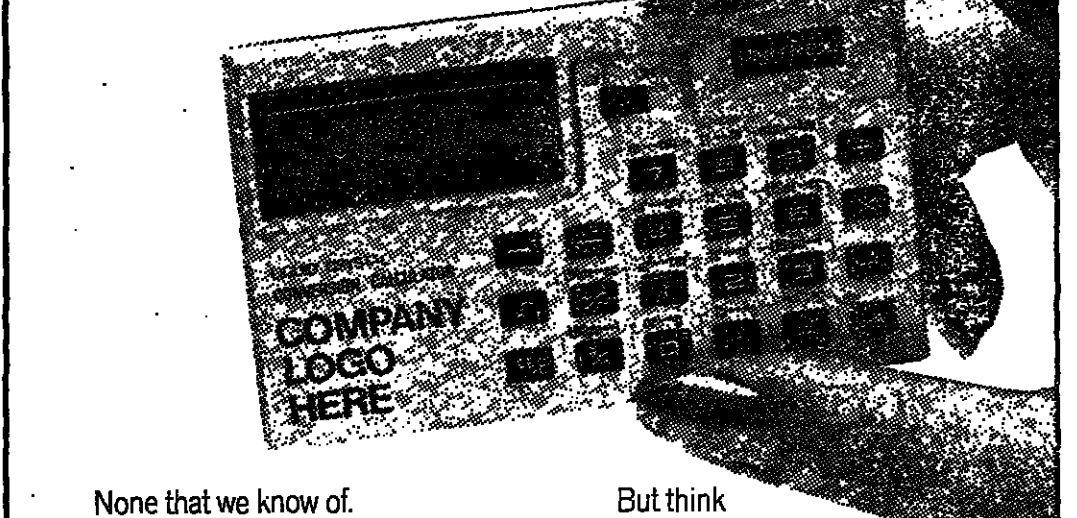
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## THE ARTS

هكذا من الشمال



Building the Boat, Tréboul 1936, by Christopher Wood

The Fitzwilliam, Cambridge/Minories, Colchester

## Tolly's Prize Day

by WILLIAM PACKER

A day in the country which is to say out of London, is always welcome, and both Cambridge and Colchester have more than enough to tempt the occasional visitor north and east, and to historical and architectural pleasures we can now add those of modern English art. With its second showing, the Tolly Cobbold National Exhibition becomes a most important fixture in the calendar, a biennial open competition with prize money attached sufficient to tempt even the most blasé and successful of our artists. The six awards of £1,000 apiece are well worth the winning, while Eastern Arts has chosen in a further \$800 to go to an artist working in the regions. The strength of the submission thus attracted is reflected in the work now on show at the Fitzwilliam Museum (until May 6, then on tour to Norwich, Ipswich, Camden and Sheffield).

Touring naturally suggests certain limitations and with the works restricted in size the opportunity has been taken (which was turned up last time) to show nearly 100 works, without any undue congestion. Inevitably a show like this must present an arbitrary and partial view of the work now being done, the jury itself an arbitrary mixture of taste and

judgment, but here such variety is tempered by the general high tone of the work, both in terms of seriousness and quality. There are few surprises, the best things all by artists who have made some reputation, the winners all well known, if not to the general public at least to the inner art world. Not all the prizes would be where they are now had I had any say, but that is a personal response, not a criticism. I do believe, however, that it is the nature of the exercise for members of the jury to grow fiercely partisan as a show is winnowed down to its final state. It might be better to invite them back another day to hand out the cash, or to ask another jury altogether. My personal disappointments, then, rest with Adrian Berg, Henry Mander and Maggie Hambling among the figurative painters, all of whom I felt deserved some reward, and with John Groom, whose work is evidently maturing remarkably quickly, and John Carter among the abstract. But I was very pleased for Patrick Hughes, with his genial off-duty air, Matt Rugg, and finally Keith Milow, whose relief crosses impress me more and more: all of them winners. We have long needed a serious Open Event in the

south to run counter-point with the admirable John Moores; and now we seem to have it. We must congratulate Tolly Cobbold for its most imaginative and valuable patronage, and Eastern Arts and the Arts Council for having the sense to help.

Across in Colchester, at the Minories until the end of this week (and then on to Durham, Aberdeen, Eastbourne and Exeter) is a well-chosen Arts Council show of the work of Christopher Wood. Though retrospective, it concentrates on Wood's last year or two of almost frenzied activity before his suicide on Salisbury Station in mid-1939. He was close to many of the leading artists of the time, notably Picasso and Cocteau, and the French influence is strong in his work. With Ben Nicholson, he was the first to come across the old fisherman, Alfred Wallis, in St. Ives, whose primitive vision affected him deeply. In his last years, especially, he worked extensively in Cornwall and Brittany, and the paintings he made of the fishing villages along those coasts remain collectively his strongest work, direct and deceptively simple statements of his own sophisticated yet desperately innocent vision.

## New York theatre

## Off-off Broadway calms down

by FRANK LIPSIUS

To the detriment of those cities' cultural life, Broadway-bound plays no longer regularly pass through Boston and Philadelphia on try-out tours. Cancelling the tours, which had become prohibitively expensive, forced producers to find other ways to get their shows ready for New York openings. After Michael Bennett's first play, *A Chorus Line*, was nurtured in Joseph Papp's Shakespeare Festival, the playwright tried to get the same feel by opening his second, *Balloon*, in an uptown church hall before venturing on to Broadway with it.

A number of plays still come routed through Washington because Roger Stevens at the Kennedy Center there produces plays he expects to send on to New York. It seems to specialise in British productions, having brought over a number of Royal Shakespeare Company works and, recently, giving Alan Ayckbourn's *Bedroom Farce* a last look before sending it on towards success in New York.

Sarav, an amusing musical based on Jorge Amado's *Donna Flor and Her Two Husbands* (a film preceded this musical production), opened in Boston to heartless reviews. The producers promptly closed the show there and moved it immediately to New York, where an effective television advertising campaign brought large audiences to a try-out period that essentially began on Broadway. To the ire of local critics, opening night was repeatedly postponed, since the play was drawing such a business not want to make management want to risk adverse reviews. The critics for the three major New York papers voted to review the play on one of the opening nights previously postponed, causing a controversy on the rights of reviewers to barge in on a production versus the rights of a producer to keep the local press from seeing shows prematurely.

Meantime, the musical itself has modest, though lavish, ambitions which it amply fulfills. The choreography and direction by Rick Atwell combine the Latin-disco beat of the story's Brazilian setting with a touching performance by Tovah Feldshuh as Donna Flor and Michael Ingram as her conscientious but not ardent second husband, the chemist Ted. Voodoo spirits are called for in lively numbers like

"I'm looking for a Man" and the set by Santo Loquasto, which consists of small locations played in front of the backdrop of a grand receding horizon, contributed greatly to the play's evocative good mood. As an expensive, flashy musical, it is just the kind of production that used to benefit enormously from a long, itinerant try-out period.

Producers increasingly let off-off Broadway productions serve as their try-outs at no risk to themselves. The show is picked up after its opening and the critics' views are in. A successful off-off Broadway run nowadays has a good chance of being selected for a commercial production. While being an excellent boost to the fortunes and prestige of off-off Broadway, the new system has disadvantages, too. We are now witnessing the elevation of a profusion of small productions to Broadway status.

Wings, Arthur Kopit's essentially one-role enactment of a stroke victim's experience, started as a modest production in New Haven. Constance Cummings has already brought it to New York for a limited run off-off Broadway, and it comes back again now in the Lyceum, one of Broadway's large theatres.

The play, beautifully written and acted as it is, projects a private vision of the world, one that does badly at rattling round a large stage. The loss of verbal skills is effectively rendered with doctors periodically lapsing into incomprehensible gibberish, as does the victim, a former aviatrix whose active life makes the affliction all the more unbearable.

The play provides little in the way of action. When the stage briefly fills up with other hospital patients there is some relief to the unmitigated frustration we witness when the focus remains too closely confined. Even at close range, Miss Cummings' small movements and gestures, her averted stare and fidgeting in a chair, do not come across so well on a large stage meant for gestures visible at greater range.

The new importance of off-off Broadway has brought particular attention to the Hudson Guild Theatre, which generated two current Broadway productions, the award-winning *Da* and the recently opened *On Golden Pond*. Besides these the 30-year-old theatre director, Craig Anderson, brought nonagenarian George Abbott in to direct a political comedy, *Winning Isn't Everything*, and premiered the latest Tennessee

Williams play, *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur*, with Mr. Anderson himself directing.

*On Golden Pond* is now playing at the recently re-opened New Apollo Theatre, the first "new" Broadway theatre in over 30 years and a triumph for the legitimate stage against the "sin house" movies on 42nd Street from which fate the theatre was rescued. Concerned with an elderly couple spending their 48th summer together at their summer house in Maine, the play provides a portrait of a perfect ascerbic frail old man in the character of Norman Thayer, Jr., as played by Tom Aldredge. Remarks against every conceivable majority make an otherwise likeable old man fall into bigoted clichés from time to time, but ordinarily he is gently handled by his livelier wife, Ethel, played by Frances Sternhagen.

Into their insular world comes a daughter, Chelsea, bringing in tow her latest middle-aged boyfriend and his son, Billy, who will stay with the old couple while Chelsea and her mate go off to Europe. Young Billy, played with an accurate lapse into taciturnity and clichés, gradually comes to read books (!), go fishing and get some activity out of the old man. By the time the summer ends, playwright Edward Thompson convinces us, Billy departs for home in California looking forward as much as Norman does to their

The Hudson Guild has earned its place as a Broadway pipeline with Craig Anderson's announced concern, demonstrated in *On Golden Pond*, to "paint humanity as being positive and constructive." The avant-garde image of off-off Broadway is dissolved in a substantiation of traditional values, quirky but reliable characters and an appeal to sheer sentiment.

Tennessee Williams' latest play, *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur*, must unfortunately be considered another example of the same elements, fitted round a more southerly geographic pole. Here, two spinsters uncomfortably share a flat in St. Louis, circa 1955, where Dottie, played to Williams' overemotional demands with style by Shirley Knight, awaits deliverance from a man she considers her suitor. Most of the play revolves round her room mate Bodie's attempt to hide from her the news in the society column that the beloved man has just been married. The



Constance Cummings and Mary-Joan Negro in 'Wings'

action of the play consists of doing morning exercises while conducting a bickering session that passes for conversation, cooking for a picnic outing at Creve Coeur, a local park, and the rantings of a ghoulish neighbour with little English. This less than idyllic scene is interrupted by a fellow teacher of Dottie's who is trying to pull her up in the world and into a better flat. The four women do not constitute a justification of women's liberation, but they are recognisably the work of their playwright who has tried to infuse enough emotion into the characters to make up for a lack of real motivation or plot. Lee Kalchauer's play, *Winning Isn't Everything*, is just the opposite, being concerned with the campaign headquarters doings of a small-time politician trying to make it in the big time. A plethora of events is extremely well managed by the director, who has lost none of his deft touch through the years, and the play, though more frivolous than substantial, shows the playwright's familiarity with American politics (where he himself worked on numerous campaigns) and the demands of the stage. Threatened divorce by the candidate's wife and the sexual, as well as political, demands of an important potential supporter give the play plenty of plot and lots of room for the well-coordinated cast to move around in.

## Elizabeth Hall

## English Chamber Orchestra

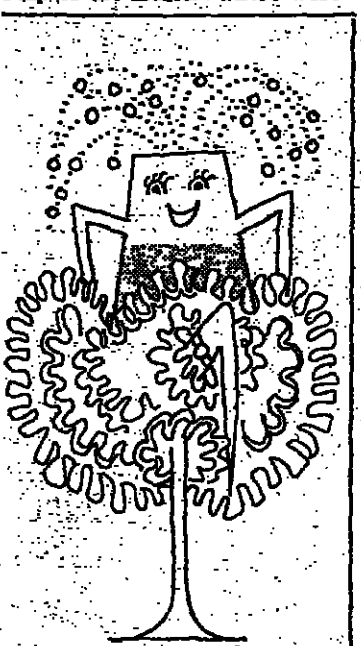
by DAVID MURRAY

For the ECO concert Friday night Murray Perahia was billed as "director/soloist," and one expected him to appear before the two Mozart piano concertos to direct Bartok's *Divertimento* for strings. In fact the Bartok was played without a conductor—a risky feat, and entirely successful. The interplay between solo passages and tutti was crisply defined, and no hint of caution blurred the rhythmic snap of the music. There were

no laggards at the rear desks. Only the four violas seemed too few: their playing was as brightly characterised as the rest, but against 14 violins and four cellos they were a little underweighted.

The energetic, martial opening of the first of Mozart's three mature concertos in C would have been needed. Mr. Perahia's promptings; and he chose to treat the piano part with reflective delicacy, as much in the outer movements as in the limpid Andante. It was of this concerto and its two companions of 1782-83 that Mozart boasted: "There are passages written in such a way that the less learned cannot fail to be pleased, though without knowing why." No such finesse went unremarked by Perahia, who saw to it that the less learned couldn't miss them. One more degree of self-consciousness might have been excessive, but he stopped just short of that, and the overt subtleties were delightful.

The E-flat Concerto K482—a less objective reading than Richter's of a few days earlier—was distinguished by a particularly lovely Andante, sustained by the ECO's excellent woodwinds. Both the Allegros were freshly witty. A cautious critic might enter a small reservation about Perahia's trick of making an expressive surprise by dropping away at the natural peak of a phrase, which he indulged from his first entry—but he does it very winningly. One would be lucky to hear a happier performance.



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## Radio 3

## Bartok and Mozart

by MAX LOPPERT

Bartok's *Contrasts* for piano (Zsuzsanna Sikoray), clarinet (Thea King), and violin (Erich Gruenberg) opened yesterday's BBC lunchtime recital, broadcast from St. John's, Smith Square. The title of Bartok's marvellous small suite of character pieces might, also have served as the recital's own sub-title—though in this sense the contrasts were those of performance style, and not always conferred with absolute suitability on the music. The work was neatly sprung and sounded, on its own terms an agile account of the humours and poetry of village life that Bartok evoked in two framing dances and a central slow movement; but there appeared to be no single dramatic impetus inspiring and relating the three players.

King's clarinet was smooth and fleet. Mr. Gruenberg's violin very precise, if insufficiently gutsy; it was hard to prevent memory of the original (and very different) performers, Benny Goodman and Sigeist, from impinging on the music-making. In the middle movement, "Relaxation" clarinet and violin failed to phrase together, as though forming the two matching parts of a *Mikrokosmos* study in contrary motion; later on, trills weren't matched. Details—but they help one to understand why such tidy ensemble and playing should nevertheless have fallen a trifle flat.

The other half of an attractive bill was devoted to Mozart. Miss Sikoray returned to play the *A minor Rondo*, K511—sensitively, but not very limpidly. Tonal emission and phrasing tended to be jerky subject to an inapposite emotional impulsiveness—the music runs deep, but also quietly. In the great E-flat Trio K498, for clarinet, viola, and piano, the clarinet tone, once by Vivaldi, Rousseau and Nobuko Imai, struck a good balance with Miss King; but again, the pianist's manner was too angular.

## Wigmore Hall

## Frans Brüggen

by DAVID MURRAY

On Saturday Frans Brüggen gave a solo recital, accompanied only by himself on a huge gong in the last work. Though rich, the programme was not long: a single recorder, or rather a single player, with several recorders, cannot play on and on.

The three 16th-century Ricerate with which he began displayed his finely modelled tone and water-drop staccato, as well as his immunity to the all too familiar hazards which beset lesser recorder players. In Jacob van Eyck's "Amarilli mia Bella" he offered a marvellously sensuous pastoral line that swayed and looped with instinctive freedom—just how a native wood-note wild should sound. A G minor Suite by Jean-Féry Rebel, like the flute Partita by his near-contemporary Bach, showed off Brüggen's inimitable rhythmic energy and clarity, though those were wholly at the

service of the music. Rebel's elaborate Passacaglia inspired an astonishing range of tone-colour and attack.

The Bach was substituted for a promising-sounding multiple piece by Vivaldi, Rousseau and Brüggen himself, which required electronics that couldn't be made to function. That left only Maki Ishii's *Black Interiors* to represent the 20th century. It began with pentatonic permutations on a tiny recorder (soprano? soprano?), presently Brüggen placed a second recorder to his lips, too, and maintained a corymbant duet with himself for some time. It rose to a shrill climax, marked by an almighty crash from the gong mentioned earlier, and diminished to a solo which retreated, a little more chromatically, to whence the music had come. There was some honest musical conviction in it, and it made a splendid turn.

## City Arts Trust has first full-time administrator

The City Arts Trust, which promotes the arts within the City of London, has appointed its first full-time administrator, Miss Virginia Harding.

From 1973 to 1978 Miss Harding was responsible for the administration of the biennial

Carl Flesch International Violin Competition, organising all aspects of the event in 1974, 1976, and 1978. As the Carl Flesch is run in conjunction with the City of London's biennial festivals she will remain responsible for organising the 1980 competition.

## Festival Hall

## Mahler 2 by ANDREW CLEMENTS

It may be that any performance of Mahler's *Resurrection* Symphony on Palm Sunday is already three parts of the way to being a triumph before it starts, without the considerable advantages of Claudio Abbado as conductor, the London Symphony Orchestra on its keenest form, and a pair of top-flight soloists. Equally, it is almost impossible not to be moved by a performance of the *Resurrection*, for all its bombast and theatricality, its blatant substitution of programmatic linking for thorough-going organic structure. In the Second Symphony, Bruno Walter suggested, "Mahler asks the reason for the

tragedy of human existence and is sure its justification is to be found in immortality." You may not accept Mahler's message, but you cannot fail to respond to the exhilaration with which he delivers it.

If he has not attained the status already, Abbado is fast becoming one of the finest Mahler conductors of the present time. His approach is an effective blend of the operatic and the symphonic, mixing the flamboyant with the devotional, the analytical with the symphonic as if he were charting a course through a grand opera. It is an achievement which even contrived to make the Technicolor

ending of the Second sound convincing, turning it into a glorious affirmation of faith. But it worked to most musical ends in the first movement, by means of a network of precisely calculated tempi (the result of a scrupulous observance of Mahler's own indications in the score) and an extraordinary dynamic range. Abbado's Mahler is clearly not intended for any orchestra that cannot produce the most velvety of pianissimos or sustain brassy fortissimos without losing the shape of the melodic line; throughout the LSO's strings and brass were superbly controlled.

Jessye Norman was the bonus mezzo-soprano soloist, a last-

minute replacement for Lucia Valentini, as honeyed of tone as ever, rapt in the *Das Knaben Wunderhorn* incantations of the fourth-movement *Urlicht*. Here Abbado surrounded her with a gloriously rich web of sound, though elsewhere in these three central movements his conducting seemed a shade equivocal, as if disappointed that they did not contain the challenge of the first and last. Barbara Hendricks was not surprisingly a little in Miss Norman's shade but she combined well with the LSO Chorus, a more alert, enthusiastic group than when last I heard them.

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Tuesday April 10 1979

## Inflation: the second wave

THE GOVERNOR of the Swiss central bank is reported to have been rather hurt at a recent meeting with his opposite numbers when his complaint that the Swiss inflation rate had doubled won no sympathy at all from his colleagues. It is now expected to reach 2 per cent. British observers will probably feel a similar lack of sympathy for the German authorities, faced with a warning from their own forecasting organisations that inflation there may pass 4 per cent in the coming year. In this context, the latest figures from the UK economy are only reassuring in the most temporary sense. It may after all be another month or two before we are back in double figures.

## Oil impact

It is true, of course, that although our figures are so much worse than those in the stablest countries, they are no longer the most worrying in the developed world as they were two or three years ago. The most recent inflation figures from the U.S., France and Italy have been worse.

In the industrialised world as a whole, on the other hand, the combined effects of the dollar crisis last year and the crisis in Iran this year are now clearly causing a secondary wave of inflation, similar in principle to the one which undermined the world economy in 1974, but much smaller.

The figures now appearing in the forecasts may look a little modest to British readers, but unhappily they are probably too low to be taken as a guide. When inflation is internationalised, as at present, there is a cumulative effect—as rising prices in one country appear in the import bills of others—which is not captured in the early warning figures.

Of course, where these movements are offset by exchange rate changes, there are no international repercussions. Japanese goods will be cheaper, not dearer. If the 15 per cent decline in the external value of the yen which has occurred since October is consolidated, the recent stabilisation of the dollar has led to a sharp reversal of exchange rate trends between third countries, as markets have again begun to respond to interest rate differences.

## Party feuding in France

IT IS now more than twelve months since President Giscard d'Estaing's Centre-Right coalition beat off the most serious left-wing challenge in French national elections for twenty years. But the reverberations are still rumbling through the French political system. Last week saw relations between the two main coalition partners, Giscardians and Gaullists, reach a new degree of acrimony as M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, stepped up his long-running campaign against M. Giscard d'Estaing. Anxious to undermine the President's image as a winner in advance of June's European elections, and looking further ahead to the Presidential race in 1981, M. Chirac predicted that M. Giscard d'Estaing would lose his re-election campaign unless he changed his policies.

## Opposition

But dissension in the governing majority is matched by equal dissension in the ranks of the opposition. Socialists and Communists have still not made up the quarrel that helped to ensure last year's defeat, and the Socialists are showing an increasing tendency to parade their internal differences in public. Their week-end National Congress in Metz, at which they failed to agree on a compromise common programme, is the latest and most serious example. The split is particularly damaging for the Party in that it confirms the sharp political and personal differences between M. Francois Mitterrand, the Party leader, and his main rival, M. Michel Rocard.

Until the weekend, the Socialists were riding high on the results of last month's cantonal elections, which substantiated their claim to be at least the country's biggest party—at least at local level. M. Mitterrand went into the National Congress with reason to be confident of easy victory in his bid to retain control over his party. He has, in the end, retained his position as First Secretary—but at the cost of losing his overall majority support. The unresolved argument between his supporters and those of M. Rocard can only damage the party's credibility in the run-up to the European elections, and in the longer term, M. Mitterrand's chances of winning another chance to contest the Presidency.

tials, and the yen, which took the biggest adjustment upwards during the dollar's decline, has relaxed accordingly.

Other countries which made more strenuous efforts to preserve competitiveness against the dollar, such as Germany and latterly Switzerland, are now demonstrating the truth that it is impossible to preserve competitiveness against an inflating economy without catching some of its inflation. In the UK, by contrast, domestic objectives have remained the main guide for monetary and exchange rate policy. The wholesale figures suggest that we are avoiding imported cost inflation, but at a high price in competitiveness. Our own prospective inflation is home grown.

If current figures reflected only the backwash of recent monetary turmoil, together with domestic wage pressures in some countries, one might expect to see inflation rates tending to converge at the moment, with improved performance in some countries balancing the deterioration in others. It is the energy crisis which has made a worsening prospect into a world-wide phenomenon.

The experience of 1974 should be sufficient warning against the simple-minded calculations that the recent rise in oil prices will add 1 per cent to world inflation. Inflation is not caused by realistic relative price adjustments, but by efforts to escape reality by deficit financing, compensatory wage claims and the like. The relative tightness of U.S. monetary policy at present, and the deregulation of oil prices in the U.S., does hold out the hope that we can get through the present adjustment without a repeat performance of the dollar crisis and the excessive creation of world liquidity.

## Breathing space

For the UK, ironically enough, the oil price rise offers a short breathing space: the North Sea will provide some of the real resources to meet one last round of unrealistic wage settlements, without a crippling loss of competitiveness. The unresolved problem facing the next Government is to ensure that as the coming inflation crisis abates, we progress in step with our competitors.

THE NUCLEAR accident in Pennsylvania and the swift cancellation by the New York State Power Authority of a nuclear plant of the same design and maker are events bound to encourage other electrical utilities to look again at coal. In Britain, when the nuclear accident happened, public interest was beginning to refocus on coal as a potentially disturbing substance for the environment. The last time this happened in Britain it led to the Clean Air Act of 1956. Severe restrictions were imposed on the freedom to burn coal in urban areas, but since then the coal industry, an influential employer, has enjoyed relative immunity from political criticism.

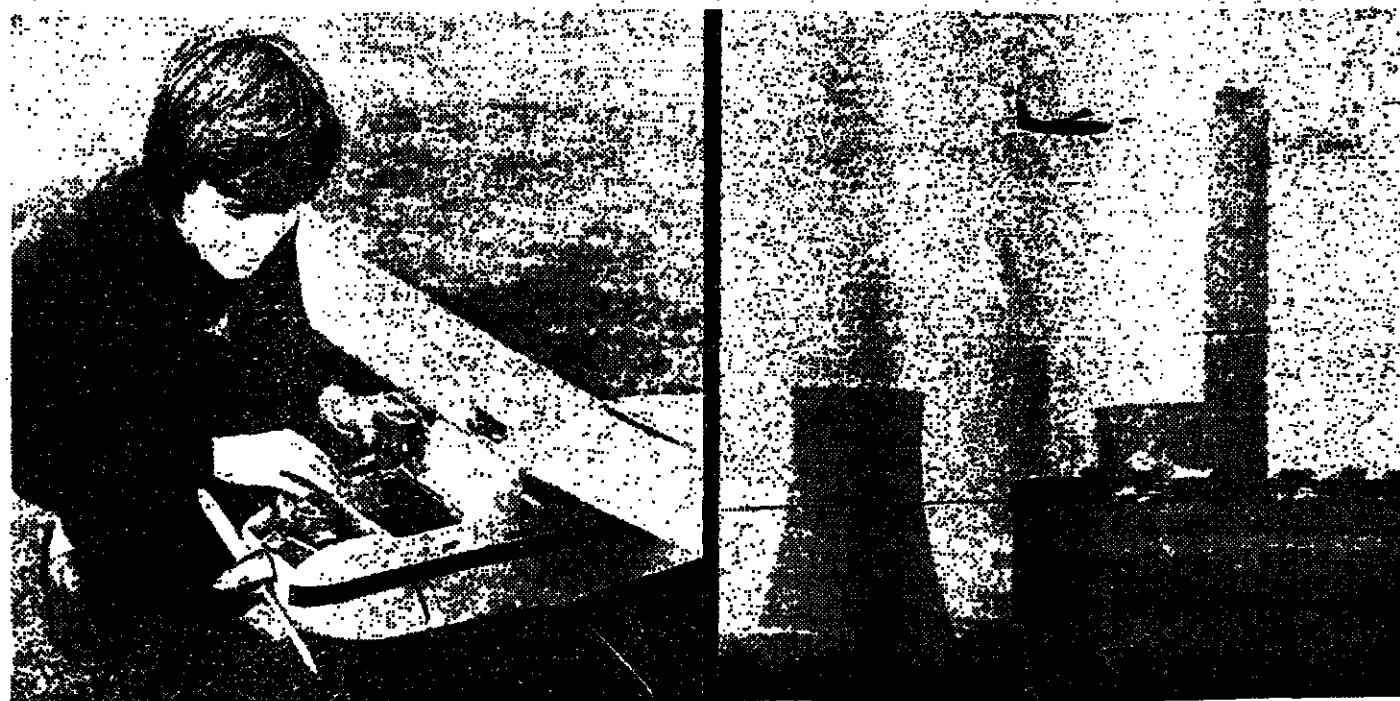
Now two national inquiries into future plans for coal and its use in Britain are being launched by the Government. Their outcome could have far-reaching consequences for many countries which, like Britain, are putting their faith in the "coconuts" (coal, conservation, nuclear) strategy for long-term guarantees of adequate energy supplies. One inquiry is the Belvoir public inquiry into the National Coal Board's plans to open three new pits totalling 7.5m tonnes of annual output. The preliminary hearing begins next month, to be followed by the full-scale inquiry in the autumn.

## New nit inquiry

The NCB will say that it needs these new pits, in an area of Leicestershire with no previous traditions of coalmining, to supply the big central power stations of the East Midlands, where present sources will be nearly exhausted in another decade.

The second inquiry has already begun. It is the Coal Study by the Commission on Energy and the Environment, an interdepartmental body set up by the Departments of Energy and the Environment. Its chairman is Lord (formerly Sir Brian) Flowers, physicist, and rector of Imperial College, London. This commission has planned a two-year investigation of coal—the environmental impact of its production, supply, conversion and use. As a start it is asking the organisations most conspicuously concerned with these matters, such as the NCB itself and its principal customers, to submit papers on which they can be questioned, in order to try to focus on any areas of genuine concern.

Last week it was the turn of the Central Electricity Generating Board to be questioned. The CEBG is the biggest of the NCB's customers and will burn 70m-80m tonnes of coal this year in its power stations. The lower figure, according to CEBG estimates, will release



The CEBG uses model aircraft to fly sophisticated instruments (left) around the stacks of power stations to test for sulphur dioxide.

into the atmosphere about 2m tonnes of sulphur dioxide—about 35 per cent of the total UK emissions of this pollutant in Britain. The balance comes from the burning of oil, from coal burnt by other power station operators, and from the steel industry. Sulphur dioxide is not the only toxic substance released by the burning of coal, but it is the most controversial one.

British steam coal, which averages 1.6 per cent sulphur, is acknowledged to be responsible for a significant fraction of all releases of sulphur dioxide. A recent OECD study, Clean Fuel Supply, estimates that Europe is currently releasing about 20m tonnes a year. By 1985, it finds, the 24 OECD nations of the world—which include the U.S. and Japan—will be releasing 57m tonnes a year. The study says that sulphur dioxide releases remained steady from 1968 to 1974, despite an increase of 28 per cent in fossil-fuel consumption. But the authors believe that releases will increase by another 23 per cent by 1985 unless there is heavy investment in new technology to hold down emissions. They estimate that it will be costing Europe an additional \$1.55 bn (\$1.8bn a year from 1985) merely to hold sulphur dioxide releases at today's levels.

## Power station emissions

About two-thirds of Britain's electricity comes from the burning of coal. That proportion will decline only slowly during the next decade or two as more nuclear stations come into service. The CEBG estimates that the cost of removing 50 per cent of the sulphur dioxide from its power station emissions would add 25-30 per cent to the cost of generating electricity in these stations. It questions whether that premium is worth paying. (It may, however, seem modest

compared with the cost of the most promising of the new "benign and renewable" sources of electricity, namely wavepower, which is likely to be at least 20 times as expensive as coal.)

As the CEBG sees it, the air in Britain was dramatically cleaned up when the Clean Air Act forced many people to stop burning coal in small, inefficient combustors such as open grates, and concentrated it in large power stations. It claims that 25,000 tonnes of coal burned in a modern power station has no more adverse effect than 1 tonne burned in a domestic grate.

That leads on to one important question about which the Flowers commission will want to satisfy itself: at what concentrations of sulphur dioxide are people—particularly such people as bronchitics who are especially sensitive to sulphurous fumes—farm animals, and crops are damaged?

Sulphur dioxide is a natural—and essential—component of the atmosphere, with a pivotal role in the formation of protein. It is also undoubtedly a toxin in high concentrations. How difficult it is for scientists to set safe limits is shown by differences by a factor of 20 between what different countries consider the acceptable average daily concentration.

The British electricity supply has long put its faith in what is often known as the "fall-stack policy". After a flirtation with two London stations with a technology called flue gas desulphurisation, which washes sulphur and other pollutants from the boiler exhaust fumes, it settled instead for very tall chimneys for its new stations. Fumes cooled and dampened by washing, it says, prove more objectionable to those living nearby than untreated fumes. Washed fumes descend rapidly to the ground, bearing an inevitable residue of sulphur. The tall stacks of modern

power stations rise to heights of 650-850 ft, depending on the terrain. Hot flue gas issues from the several narrow flues of the stack at speeds high enough to carry it far beyond this level, perhaps 1,500 ft, deep into the turbulent lower region of the atmosphere known as the "mixing layer". This extends about a mile from the ground. The theory is that if the flue gas is injected into the heart of this mixing layer, usually it will be well and truly dispersed.

The evidence seems to be that it works. Sulphur dioxide levels are monitored at about 7,200 points around Britain, and collected by a government laboratory. The average annual level has fallen by a factor of 2.5 since 1960. But the electricity supply industry continues to study the idiosyncrasies of the mixing layer, to try to understand the conditions which can sometimes cause a high ground concentration of sulphur dioxide. One of the latest ideas of the CEBG is to use model aircraft, radio-controlled, to fly sophisticated instrument packages around the stacks of power stations. By this means the scientists can even freeze samples of the atmosphere, so that their models return with "snapshots" of the precise chemistry at a given time and place.

## Acid rain accusation

Not everyone accepts the CEBG view that for most of the time its flue gases are so thoroughly churned up in the mixing layer that nowhere, close to or far from the power station, is the sulphur dioxide concentration raised to a damaging level. An organisation called the International Youth Federation of Environmental Studies and Conservation has submitted evidence to the Flowers commission asserting that the British electricity supply

washing process, and that a new pollution problem would appear, namely how to dispose of the sulphur sludge. The CEBG has begun to investigate a new idea for magnetically separating sulphur compounds from coal dust.

The course usually urged by environmentalists is flue gas desulphurisation (FGD), the process installed at Battersea power station in the 1930s and at Burslem in the 1950s, but then abandoned in Britain in favour of tall stacks. It is a chemical treatment, designed to remove sulphur by combining it with lime, limestone, or another cheap reagent.

No one doubts that it can be done, using flue gas scrubbers already commercially available. In fact it is a statutory requirement for new fossil-fuelled power stations in the U.S., under the 1977 Clean Air Act, and in Japan, which has already installed 33 FGD units, mostly on oil-plants. In the U.S. especially it has caused heated controversy, since the new act is interpreted by environmentalists as calling for 90 per cent sulphur removal regardless of the sulphur content of the fuel.

The basic problem with FGD is that it is very troublesome and therefore costly to extract efficiently a very small component—typically only 0.12 per cent—of a very large volume of hot gas. The CEBG has rejected most processes on the grounds that they would produce a huge volume of "sublimous" sludge "like grey toothpaste" to be disposed of in addition to the 650,000 tonnes of ash annually from a 2,000 MW station. Each year it would fill a "lake" of 86 acres to a depth of 3 ft.

The CEBG has examined the cost of installing an FGD process which can extract sulphur as a relatively pure solid, and might thus find a market. This is the Wellman-Lord technology, invented in the U.S. and already demonstrated there and in Japan. The technology is now owned by a British company, Davy International, which has acquired Wellman-Lord.

## Environmental protection

The CEBG puts plant costs at an additional £190m for a 2,000 MW station. There would be no savings on the tall stack which would still be needed to disperse the reheated flue gas. Power consumed would amount to 45 MW, equivalent to an extra 270,000 tonnes of coal a year. The effect of capital plus operating cost, says the CEBG, would be to add 25 to 30 per cent to the cost of generating electricity in the station. Inevitably, the outcome would be higher levels of sulphur dioxide and other pollutants in the vicinity of the station, because the cooled flue gas disperses less efficiently. Environmental protection, clearly, is a problem with many pitfalls for anyone who thinks it is simple to supply the energy needs of our society.

## MEN AND MATTERS

## Business for art's sake

Lina Lalandi, director of the English Bach Festival, returned to the attack yesterday against commercial sponsorship of the arts. "It is a form of advertising," she complained to me. "That is why companies support productions like Rigoletto and suchlike—which give immediate publicity. They tend to ignore the events that really need help."

This year's Bach Festival, which starts in ten days time with a fortnight of 18th-century ballet in the Banqueting Hall, Whitehall, does not have a commercial sponsor. Perhaps, given the views of the director, this is scarcely surprising. "It is the Arts Council which provides the help upon which everyone relies," she insists.

But the secretary-general of the Arts Council, Roy Shaw, takes a different line. "I welcome business support of the arts," he said. "All we want is adequate acknowledgement of public sponsorship."

Right at the opposite end of the spectrum from Miss Lalandi is Luke Rittner, director of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts. He says: "It is a civilised vehicle for furthering business activity." As Rittner points out, sponsorship is tax allowable. "If a company supports an arts event, it must be a form of business. It is a two-way deal. If a company sponsors anonymously, that will not be a deductible expense."

This was confirmed by a spokesman for the Inland Revenue: if a company tries to do good by stealth, the taxman will not help. "It is another name for advertising," says Rittner—which is where he surprisingly agrees with Miss Lalandi. One benefit of sponsorship is the prospect of editorial mention for a company—more valuable for image-making than straight advertising.

## Dear light

It has given no hint of exploding, or emitting so much as a whiff of radioactivity over Washington, but President Carter's rooftop solar showcase—due to be completed at the end of this month—is beaming out only lukewarm news on alternative technology.

The relatively modest design for 32 solar panels on the mansion's west wing will provide most of the hot water needed for washing dishes in the staff mess. Work started last week, while the nuclear accident in Pennsylvania was still rumbling on.

It sounds like a timely initiative which could do Carter nothing but good. But the President's cousin, Hugh, a hitherto trouble-free Carter relative who administers the White House payroll and expenses, now says that the outlay has spiralled and installing the panels will

cost £14,000. Given less-than-spectacular increases in fuel prices over their 20-year life, the panels will fall just short of breaking even, he says dispiritingly.

In the even of — dare it be suggested? — bad plumbing, at least nothing worse can happen than a minor wash-out in the kitchens.

## Meeting Zillmer

"You can count yourself unique in the country," said Ronald Skerman, chief actuary of the Prudential in tones of amazement. "I've never met anybody who didn't know what Zillmering was."

What about the European Commission people? "I probed them," I said. "No one had the faintest idea."

"They must have been bluffing," Skerman has been talking to the European Community about insurance for 15 years, even before Britain joined. And Zillmer adjustments figured high on the agenda. Zillmer has been on the lips of actuaries and insurance men for years, says Skerman. It is nothing more interesting than the allowance made for the lower costs associated with renewal premiums compared with the expense of procuring insurance business in the first place.

## Talking shop

Lord Cromer will no doubt have much to contribute to Marsh and McLellan, the world's highest insurance broker, which he is joining as an "international consultant."

Under the energetic leadership of chairman Jack Regan, "Marsh and Mac" is a leading proponent of the New York Insurance Exchange, which is to become reality in the coming weeks.

The recently negotiated tie-up with CT Bowring, the major

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FINANCIAL TIMES

## Eurobond Quotations and Yields

AIBD

THE ASSOCIATION OF  
INTERNATIONAL BOND DEALERS

At 30th MARCH, 1979

## Eurobonds in March

BY FRANCIS GHILES

The Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD) compiles current market quotations and yields for Eurobond issues. These quotations and yields are published monthly by the Financial Times. The Association's prices and yields are compiled from quotations obtained from market-makers on the last working day of each month. There is no single stock exchange for Eurobonds in the usually recognised sense—secondary market trading business is done on the telephone between dealers scattered across the world's major financial centres. Membership of the AIBD (which was established in 1969) comprises over 450 institutions from about 27 countries.

March will be remembered in the international bond markets as the month during which the threat of further rises in inflation and interest rates, combined with the rise in oil prices, troubled the hard currency sectors of the market. Yen, Deutsche-Mark and Swiss Francs.

The dollar sector witnessed a steady rise in prices with intermittent buying pressure. A steady dollar and the general easing of interest rates has

helped maintain a strong undertone. The sterling sector meanwhile has been through something of a boom riding on the crest of a strong gilt market and a rising currency.

In the hard currency sector, the Swiss Franc sector was one of the hardest hit: by the middle of the month, investors could no longer see the justification in currency terms for the sharp disparity between yields on Swiss Franc bonds and those on dollar issues. The outlook for

rising interest rates thus made the Swiss Franc bond market very vulnerable.

Although bond prices recovered briefly at the end of the third week in March following the decision by the big three Swiss banks to freeze all new straight issues bar one before Easter, the fall in prices resumed in the middle of the following week. By last week, many issues had reached their lowest level for a long time: the recent public issue for

Anstralia was quoted as low as 95.

The decision to freeze new straight issues, followed a week later by a decision of the same three banks to curtail the number of Japanese convertibles brought to an end a period of two and a half months in which the Swiss market has been able to have it both ways. Institutional investors were particularly flush with funds, demand was thus above average and enabled the market to digest a sharp fall in interest rates and a high volume of new paper without much effort.

The diverging interest of lenders and borrowers showed at first in disagreement over maturity rather than rates. Investors reluctance to tie up funds too long at prevailing yields was very strong: this led to the maturity on both the Canadian and Australian public bonds to be trimmed from 15 to 10 years. It had been the short maturity of the Carter notes which made them so attractive in January.

Both these issues were under-subscribed with in view of the poor state of the market and the size of the issues is not entirely surprising.

At the end of the month, coupons on Japanese convertibles were steadily moving

up. Rhythm Watch was the first company to arrange a convertible which included a coupon of 3½ per cent. In the month or so before the end of March a coupon of 3½ per cent on Japanese convertibles had been the norm.

The steady recovery of dollar bond prices and of the U.S. currency hastened the débacle: this recovery did not help the DM sector which despite its faring better in the later part of March weakened again at the beginning of April. The amount of new issues agreed by the capital markets sub-committee on March 24 was set at a maximum of DM 770m, including the issues for supranational bodies which are not technically included in the calendar of new issues.

Some German bankers felt this volume was a little too high considering the slow recovery of the market. The prices of some of the recent DM denominated bonds in the secondary market would suggest this sector remains fragile, with prices being negatively affected both by the rise in domestic rates in Germany, the strength of the dollar and rise on the price of dollar denominated bonds.

The Eurodollar sector of the bond market has had a good month: although buying interest has not always been strong, the

stability of the U.S. currency and the easing of interest rates did help the market. New issues tended to be in the form of floating rate notes (again with a coupon based on three month rather than six month Libor), private placements or convertibles. The Galveston Houston convertible was a notable success.

At the tail end of the month a \$75m issue for EDF later increased to \$100m reopened the straight sector of the market and met with a fair success despite some investors' objection to the fact the bond could be redeemed at 100½ after three years. These investors felt they could get higher returns on three-year money elsewhere.

Two other straight dollar issues, one for Irel, the other for the Nova Scotia Power Corporation were announced at the end of last week. This news and the good reception afforded to the EDF bond suggests that all the bonds announced in February have now been placed and that there is a shortage of paper.

Sterling denominated bonds enjoyed a very good market: the two new issues announced during the month for FFI and GEC, quickly rose to a premium in the secondary market but seasoned sterling bonds benefited also from the strong market. There were no signs at the end of March that the

tone in the market was about to change but many corporate borrowers were waiting for a fall in MLR and hence in the coupons they would have to pay on sterling denominated bonds before committing themselves to the new issue market.

The Canadian dollar market was reopened at the end of March with three new issues, after being closed for 18 months. The new issues were all well received with the one for Hudson's Bay Co. being increased in two stages to C\$60m. The biggest issue in Canadian dollar was announced at the beginning of April, a C\$80m offering for the Royal Bank of Canada.

The reopening of this sector was made possible by the improvement of the Canadian dollar since the beginning of March. The Canadian currency stood at C\$0.83 against the dollar at the beginning of March but had moved up to C\$0.86 by the end of the month.

This improvement is reinforced for the investor by the higher yield he can get on the new Canadian dollar issues than on recent U.S. dollar ones. Nor is the possibility of a further reappreciation of the currency not absent from the minds of at least some of the buyers of Canadian dollar bonds.

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The table of quotations and yields gives the latest rates available on 30th March, 1979. This information is from reports from official and other sources which the Association of International Bond Dealers considers to be reliable, but adequate means of checking its accuracy are not available and the Association does not guarantee that the information it contains is accurate or complete.

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27th MARCH, 1979

## Trade Development Bank Holding S.A.

## Highlights of the year

During the year, several important milestones were passed. For the first time, total Group assets passed US\$ 5 billion and those of our 60% owned U.S. subsidiary, Republic National Bank of New York, passed US\$ 3 billion.

Group capital and loan funds reached US\$ 490 million at year-end. Deposits increased by 32% to US\$ 4,612 million and net earnings after taxes rose by 18% to US\$ 33.7 million or US\$ 2.05 per share.

By 31st December, 1978, Republic National Bank of New York had become the 47th largest bank in the U.S.A. ranked by deposits and the 26th largest ranked by shareholders' equity.

Our geographical expansion continued with the opening of several new offices including a banking subsidiary in Uruguay and a representative office

of Republic National Bank of New York in Hong Kong.

1978 was marked by serious disturbances in the monetary and political scenes and lower margins on international credits. However, we were able to maintain profitability and minimize risk by careful cost control, diversified lending and the exercise of our specialized skills in trade finance "à forfait", gold, foreign exchange and the wholesaling of banknotes.

The Board is recommending the payment of an increased dividend of US\$ 0.65 per share, compared with US\$ 0.55 per share paid in the previous year.

19th March, 1979 EDMOND J. SAFRA  
Chairman

## Consolidated balance sheet as at 31st December, 1978

Assets	31st December		Liabilities	31st December	
	1978	1977		1978	1977
	US\$ 000's			US\$ 000's	
Cash in hand and balances with banks	1,709,951	1,006,304	Deposits, balances due to customers and inner reserves	4,611,794	3,498,442
Bank certificates of deposit	407,920	324,525	Other liabilities	170,581	236,569
Precious metals	*153,239	*113,781		4,782,175	3,735,011
Financial paper	419,657	590,864	Capital and loan funds:		
Government and municipal bonds (USA and UK)	359,373	307,775	Sinking Fund Notes 2002	30,000	6,000
Securities	251,506	311,314	Sinking Fund Debentures 2001	50,000	50,000
Current accounts and advances to customers	1,772,896	1,577,755	Sinking Fund Debentures 2002	35,000	35,000
Investments	5,109	5,086	Convertible Subordinated Capital Notes 1997	—	12,490
Fixed assets	62,253	42,642	Other loans	47,873	40,000
Other assets	130,286	88,361	Minority interests	108,854	96,376
			Shareholders' funds:		
			Share capital	24,605	24,605
			Reserves	195,685	168,925
			Total shareholders' funds	218,288	193,530
			Total capital and loan funds employed	490,015	433,396
				5,272,190	4,168,407
			Contingent liabilities:		
			Letters of credit and guarantees	195,897	165,481

\*against which were forward sales of US\$ 161,861,000 in 1978 and US\$ 107,625,000 in 1977.

For the year ended 31st December

	1978	1977
Net earnings after taxes, minority interests and transfer to inner reserves (US\$ 000's)	33,690	28,566
Earnings per share	US\$ 2.05	US\$ 1.74
Number of shares outstanding	16,403,300	16,403,300

## Principal Subsidiaries

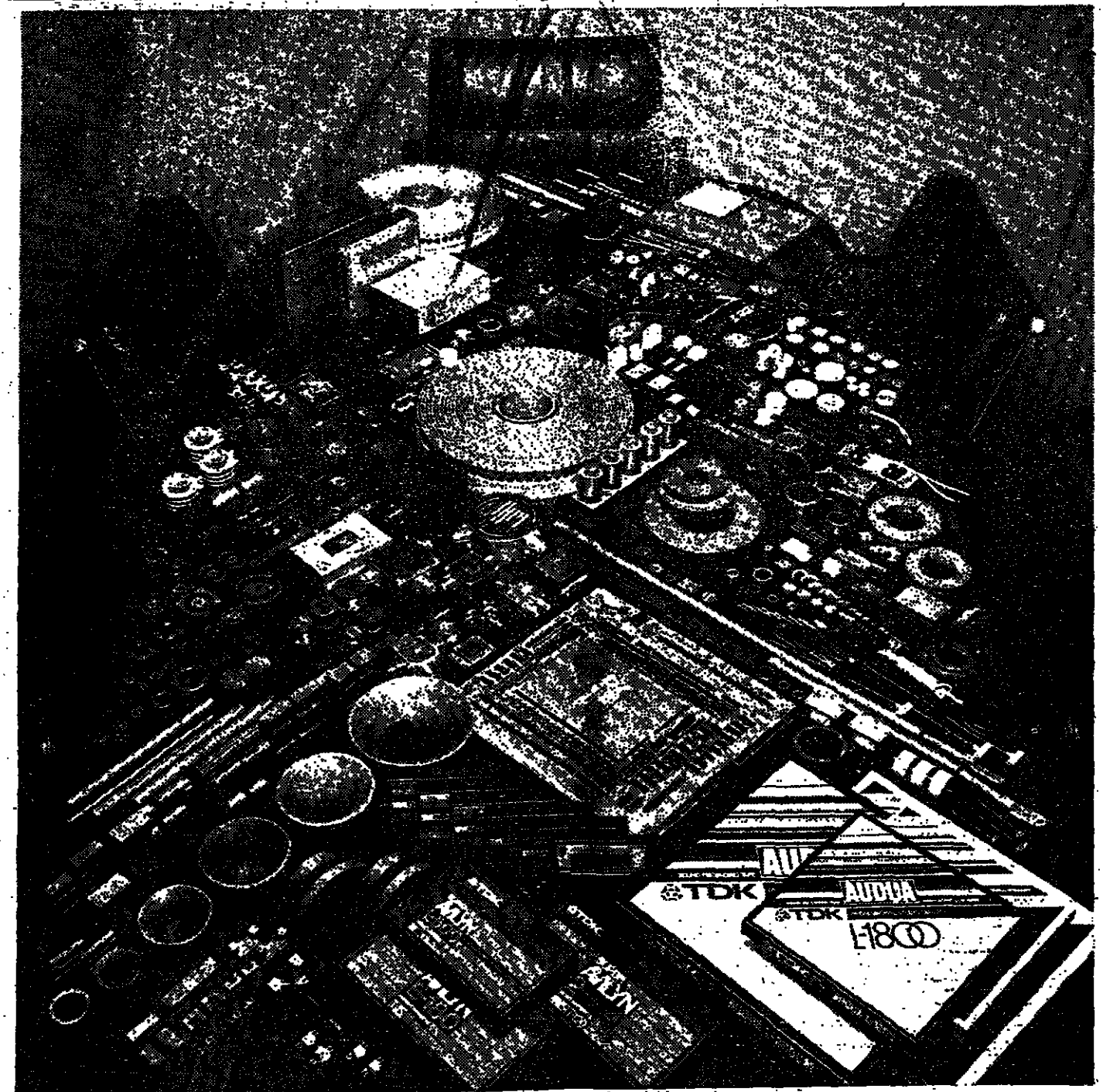
Trade Development Bank, Geneva • Republic National Bank of New York, New York  
Other affiliates and offices in: Beirut, Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Caracas, Chisao, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, London, Luxembourg, Mexico City, Miami, Montevideo, Nassau, Panama City, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Tokyo.



[illegible]

## Assets



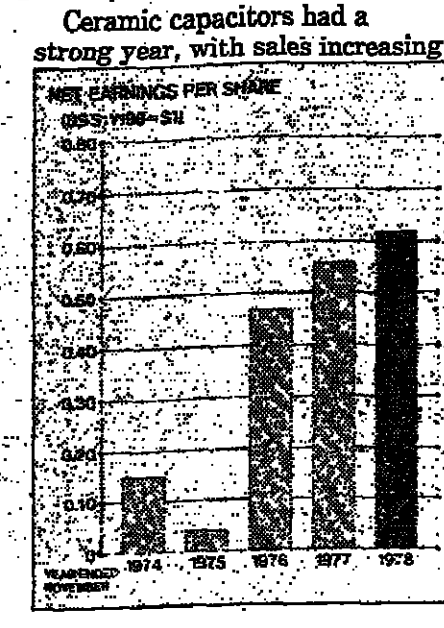
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## Assembling the components of growth.

1978 was another record year for TDK. Net sales advanced 20.6 percent to \$637.4 million, and net earnings rose 11.4 percent to \$62.5 million. Earnings per share grew from \$.56 in 1977 to \$.80 in 1978. Growth was broad based, with higher sales in all product categories.

Sales of ferrite cores and magnets rose 5.6 percent on the strength of demand for heads and other VTR components, communications equipment and power supplies.

Coil components and memory devices advanced 14.9 percent as we successfully developed new applications in the VTR market and for watches and cameras.



21.1 percent. Intensified marketing efforts and innovative products such as monolithic chip condensers and piezoelectric buzzers for consumer electronics products promoted growth. Magnetic recording tapes led growth in 1978, climbing 46.5 percent. There was a surge in demand for both our videotape and audiotape cassettes. For more information on our 1978 results, write for our annual report.



## Austrian Quotes

### Quotations and Yields of Austrian Eurobonds

ISSUE	COUPON DATES	REPAYMENT	SINKING FUND (STARTING)	PRICE		CURRENT YIELD	CURRENT YIELD TO MATURITY
				BID	ASKED		
10-MARK BONDS							
61% Brenner Autobahn 1963 (G)	1.2.18	1.8.74-83	1.8.73	101½	102½	6.82%	6.31%
61% Donaukraftwerke 1959 (G)	1.2.18	1.2.65-84	—	100	100½	5.98%	6.01%
61% Donaukraftwerke 1973 (G)	1.3	1.3.73-87	1.12.77	100½	101	6.71%	6.65%
74% Girozentrale Wien 1976	1.11	1.11.81	—	102½	103½	6.53%	5.94%
74% Girozentrale Wien 1976	1.11	1.11.83	—	104	104½	6.96%	6.14%
61% IAKW 1975 (G)	1.3	1.5.79-88	1.04	101½	102	6.77%	6.56%
61% Kelag 1973 (S)	1.3	1.3.81-85	1.2.78	101	101½	6.77%	6.56%
61% Oester. Elektrizitätswerke 1975 (G)	1.3	1.3.81-85	1.05½	106½	106½	8.25%	7.48%
61% Oester. Elektrizitätswirt 1967 (G)	1.3.18	1.3.73-87	—	101½	101½	6.91%	6.87%
74% Rep. Oesterreich 1968	1.4.1.10	1.4.73-82	1.4.73	102	102½	6.85%	6.27%
61% Rep. Oesterreich 1969	1.4.1.10	1.4.78-83	1.1.74	101½	101½	6.40%	6.17%
91% Rep. Oesterreich 1975	1.5	1.5.78-87	1.07	106½	106½	8.05%	7.60%
61% Rep. Oesterreich 1976	2.5	2.5.83-86	1.2.83	104	105	7.42%	6.93%
61% Rep. Oesterreich 1976	1.4	1.4.83-85	2.1.82	102½	103	6.58%	6.22%
61% Rep. Oesterreich 1977	1.3.1.9	1.5.74-83	1.9.73	101½	101½	6.40%	6.21%
61% Tauernkraftwerke 1968 (G)	1.2.18	1.2.74-83	—	101½	102	6.86%	6.17%
74% Tauernkraftwerke 1968 (G)	1.7	1.7.81	—	103	109	7.16%	5.44%
94% Tauernautobahn 1974 (G)	1.10	1.10.79-88	1.6.78	104½	105	8.12%	7.80%
61% Voest 1973	1.6	1.6.81-85	—	106½	106½	8.04%	7.32%
61% Voest 1976	1.6	1.6.84-89	—	100½	100½	6.72%	6.68%
61% Voest 1977	1.6.1.12	1.6.74-83	1.6.73	101½	102	6.58%	6.51%
74% Wien 1968	1.8	1.8.79-84	—	103½	104½	7.94%	7.36%
61% Wien 1975	1.8	1.8.79-84	—	103½	104½	7.94%	7.36%
U.S.\$ BONDS							
61% Rep. Austria 1964	31.1.31.7	31.1.71-84	3.1.70	97½	98½	6.12%	6.59%
61% Rep. Austria 1967	15.9.16.9	15.9.72-83	15.3.71	97½	98½	6.89%	7.61%
61% Rep. Austria 1967	15.9	15.9.77	15.9.77	98½	99	6.04%	2.91%
61% Rep. Austria 1976	15.9	1.7.70-86	1.7.69	98½	98½	6.33%	7.01%
61% Aust. Electricity 1966 (G)	1.4.1.10	1.10.71-82	1.10.70	98	98½	6.58%	7.28%
61% Aust. Electricity 1967 (G)	1.4.1.10	1.10.71-82	1.10.70	98	98½	6.58%	7.28%
61% Alpine Montan 1965 (G)	15.6	15.6.72-85	15.6.71	93½	93½	6.16%	7.10%
61% Tauernautobahn 1977 (G)	15.3	15.3.83-87	15.3.82	93½	94½	8.79%	9.36%
61% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1966	31.1	31.10.70-85	11.10.69	93	93½	6.95%	7.76%
61% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1966	31.1	31.10.70-85	11.10.69	94½	95½	7.81%	8.21%
61% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1967	30.4	30.4.73-83	31.1.72	97½	98½	6.58%	7.53%
61% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1967	30.4	30.4.73-83	30.4.73	96½	97½	6.94%	7.24%
71% Trans-Austria Gasline 1973	15.1	15.1.77-88	15.1.76	86½	86½	8.70%	10.06%
AUSTRIA SCHILLING BONDS							
61% Kontrollbank 1974 (G)	14.8	14.8.79	—	100½	101½	9.43%	7.39%
DOMESTIC ISSUES							
81% Investitionsanleihe 1973/B	15.2	15.2.77-81 (101)	—	101½	102½	7.94%	7.31%
81% Investitionsanleihe 1973/II/B	3.7	3.7.76-80 (102)	—	101½	102½	7.84%	7.32%
81% Investitionsanleihe 1974/B	1.4	1.4.76-80 (104.50)	R	101½	102½	7.67%	7.75%
81% Investitionsanleihe 1974/II/B	22.6	22.10.75-82	—	101½	102½	8.35%	7.90%
81% Investitionsanleihe 1975/II/B	11.10	11.6.76-84 (103)	—	103½	104	8.21%	8.12%
81% Investitionsanleihe 1975/S/II	25.7	25.7.76-85 (103)	—	104½	105	8.11%	7.99%
81% Investitionsanleihe 1975/III/II/B	28.10	28.10.76-84 (108)	—	103½	104½	8.19%	8.07%
81% Investitionsanleihe 1975/S/III/IV	27.12	27.12.78-85 (108.50)	—	106½	107	8.08%	7.82%
81% Investitionsanleihe 1975/IV/B	12.12	12.12.78-85 (108.50)	—	106½	107	8.08%	7.82%
81% Investitionsanleihe 1976/II/B	20.2	20.2.81-86 (104)	—	105	106	8.10%	7.98%
81% Investitionsanleihe 1977/S/II/B	2.6	2.6.82-87	—	101½	102½	7.84%	7.63%
81% Investitionsanleihe 1977/II/B	15.9	15.9.83-86	—	101½	102½	7.84%	7.63%
81% Investitionsanleihe 1977/III/B	30.12	20.12.83-86	—	101½	102½	7.84%	7.64%
81% Wasserrwirtschaftsfondsanz 1977/III	26.10	26.10.79-85 (103.50)	—	101½	102½	7.90%	7.78%
81% Energieanleihe 1976/II/B U.S.	29.4	29.4.76-83	—	101½	103½	8.29%	7.81%
81% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1975/B	10.5	10.5.76-82	—	101½	102½	7.84%	7.75%
81% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1977/B	10.5	10.5.78-82	—	101½	102½	7.82%	7.61%
81% Europ. Investitionsbank Anl. 1976	20.10	20.10.80-86	—	101½	102½	7.86%	7.67%
81% Inter-Am. Entwicklungsbank Anl. 1976	17.12	17.12.81-86	—	101½	102½	7.86%	7.67%
81% Tag Finco Anleihe 1976	19.11	19.11.81-86	—	101½	102½	7.95%	7.67%
81% Sparkassenanleihe 1975/II/B	21.10	21.10.77-83 (101)	—	102½	103½	8.25%	7.86%
81% Sparkassenanleihe 1977/IS/B	26.7	26.7.80-83	—	101½	102½	7.86%	7.49%

(R) Purchase for redemption purposes by issuer possible. The bonds so purchased may be used for repayment according to plan. (...) Repayment at a premium. (G) Government Guarantee. (S) Local Government Guarantee. Yield calculations are based on the middle price.

**Market Ma**  
On international capital markets Austria ranks as Triple A. Shrewd investors prize Austrian securities as safe and attractive investments.



On the Austrian capital market Girozentrale Vienna ranks with the leaders – it's the number one in Austria's largest banking group.

**Girozentrale Vienna**  
 Manager/Securities Trading Department: Karl VOMACKA, Tel.: 72 94 600, Telex: 13195 - Deputy Manager, Eurobond Dealer: Markfried LILL, Tel.: 72 94 772, Telex: 13895 - Eurobond Dealer, Herbert STEINDORFER, Tel.: 72 94 675, Telex: 13195 - Austrian Schillingbond Dealer: Herbert PIERINGER, Tel.: 72 94 373, Telex: 13195 - Managers New Issue Syndication: Peter NOWAK, Tel.: 72 94 634, Telex: 13915.



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**WestLB QUOTATIONS AND YIELDS**

- "Life" and "Maturity" appear in years and decimals of years and are in this context - calculated as follows:
  - to final maturity in case of a lump-sum repayment
  - to final maturity in case of a sinking fund issue, whenever the quoted price is below 100
  - to average life in case of a sinking fund issue, whenever the quoted price is above 100
  - to average life in case the bond issue provides for mandatory drawings by lot at par only.
- P Private Placement (the smallest denomination may be larger than the usual size 1,000 of public issue)
- G General Government GUARANTEED

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WestLB Euro-Deutschmarkbond Quotations and Yields									
March 30th, 1979									
Issue	Price	Yield	Life	Yield to Maturity	Repayment	Issue	Price	Yield	Life
WestLB Euro-Deutschmarkbond Yield Index									
March 30th, 1979: 6.72% (February 28th, 1979: 6.69%)									
1. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	2. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
3. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	4. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
5. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	6. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
7. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	8. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
9. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	10. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
11. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	12. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
13. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	14. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
15. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	16. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
17. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	18. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
19. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	20. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
21. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	22. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
23. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	24. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
25. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	26. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
27. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	28. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
29. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	30. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
31. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	32. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
33. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	34. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
35. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	36. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
37. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	38. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
39. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	40. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
41. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	42. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
43. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	44. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
45. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	46. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
47. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	48. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
49. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	50. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
51. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	52. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
53. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	54. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
55. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	56. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
57. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	58. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
59. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	60. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
61. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	62. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
63. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	64. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
65. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	66. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
67. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	68. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
69. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	70. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
71. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	72. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
73. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	74. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
75. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	76. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
77. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	78. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
79. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	80. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
81. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	82. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
83. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	84. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
85. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	86. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
87. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	88. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
89. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	90. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
91. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	92. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
93. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	94. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
95. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	96. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
97. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	98. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00
99. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00	6.94	1.483	100. ADELA 78/83	100.00	7.72	4.00

For current prices and further information call  
Düsseldorf Telephone 8263122 International Bond  
Westdeutsche Landesbank 8581882 Trading Dept.  
Girozentrale 8263741  
P.O. Box 1128 8581882 Institutional Investors Dept.  
4000 Düsseldorf 1/FRG  
London Telephone 6386141  
Westdeutsche Landesbank 887984  
Girozentrale  
London Branch  
21 Austin Friars  
London EC2N 2HB/UK  
Luxembourg Telephone 45493  
WestLB International S.A. 251208  
47, Boulevard Royal 75142  
WestLB  
Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale  
Leading Marketmakers in Eurobonds

WestLB SD Certificates (Schuldschein-Index)									
4 years maturity: 6.85% 5 years maturity: 7.00%									
1. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	2. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
3. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	4. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
5. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	6. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
7. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	8. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
9. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	10. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
11. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	12. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
13. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	14. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
15. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	16. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
17. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	18. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
19. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	20. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
21. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	22. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
23. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	24. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
25. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	26. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
27. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	28. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
29. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	30. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
31. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	32. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
33. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	34. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
35. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	36. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
37. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	38. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
39. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	40. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
41. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	42. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
43. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	44. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
45. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	46. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
47. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	48. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
49. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	50. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
51. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	52. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
53. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	54. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
55. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	56. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
57. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	58. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
59. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	60. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
61. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	62. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
63. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	64. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
65. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	66. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
67. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	68. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
69. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	70. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
71. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	72. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
73. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	74. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
75. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	76. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
77. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	78. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
79. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	80. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
81. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	82. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
83. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	84. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
85. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	86. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
87. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	88. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
89. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	90. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
91. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	92. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
93. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	94. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
95. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	96. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
97. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	98. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32
99. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32	7.63	1.384	100. Venezuela 78/80	90.62	6.82	8.32



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		From	To	Rate
BNP	1983	1 Mar 79	1 Sept 79	11.4%
Hapoalim Int'l	1982	8 Mar 79	8 Sept 79	11.4%
Citicorp (over 3 month LIBOR)	1984	8 Mar 79	10 June 79	11.4%
Bq. Louis-Dreyfus	1983	13 Mar 79	12 Sept 79	11.4%
Kingdom of Thailand	1984	15 Mar 79	15 Sept 79	11.4%
Leumi Int'l	1981	15 Mar 79	17 Sept 79	11.4%
Leumi Int'l	1984	15 Mar 79	17 Sept 79	11.4%
Nippon Credit	1983	15 Mar 79	18 Sept 79	11.4%
Sumitomo Hvy. Inds.	1983	16 Mar 79	18 Sept 79	11.4%
BNP	1981	18 Mar 79	18 Sept 79	11.4%
Urquijo Int'l	1986	21 Mar 79	21 Sept 79	11.4%
Enpetrol	1986	21 Mar 79	21 Sept 79	11.4%
Bco. Nac. Argentina	1986	22 Mar 79	22 Sept 79	11.4%
UBAF (6 1/2% min.)	1982	26 Mar 79	26 Sept 79	11.4%
Allied Irish Banks	1984	26 Mar 79	26 Sept 79	11.4%
UOB (over 3 month LIBOR)	1989	29 Mar 79	29 June 79	11.4%
General Cable	1980	30 Mar 79	28 Sept 79	11.4%

Interest rates applicable to the issues listed below will be announced during April.

Amex Bank	1982/85
Bca. Comm. Italiana	1981
BFCE	1983
Bq. Nat. d'Algerie	1983
Bank of Tokyo Holdings	1981
Bank of Tokyo Holdings	1983
Banco Union	1983
Beogradska Banka	1983
CZE	1983
Int'l Westminster Bank	1984
Oest. Kontrollbank	1986/88
Societe Generale	1984
Sundsvallbanken	1985
Union Bank of Finland	1982
Rep. of Costa Rica	1985
Ishikawajima Harima	1985
SOFFE	1983
Texas Int'l Airlines	1986

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715 Kansallis-Osake-Pankki

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914 Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd.  
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925 European Banking Company Ltd.  
930 First Chicago Limited  
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**JAPANESE DOLLAR  
DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS**

	Close at 3/4/79		Close at 3/4/79		Close at 3/4/79
Honda	\$21.79	Makita	\$29 1/2	Sony	\$8 1/2
Its Yokado	\$69.10	Murata	\$4.40	Taisho Marine	\$10 1/2
Jusco	\$45.37	Nippon Meat		TDK	\$8 1/2
Komatsu		Packers	\$2.71	Tokyo Sanyo	\$2.00
Forklift	\$3.06	Pioneer	\$20 1/2	Trio	\$27.41
Kubota	\$26.35	Renown	\$3	Wacoal	\$22 1/2

**INVESTMENT FUNDS**

The following funds include Eurobond issues within their portfolios

Quotations &amp; Yields as at 30th March, 1979

SOCIETE GENERALE De BANQUE BANQUE GENERALE Du LUXEMBOURG					
Fund	Price	First Issue Price	Yield %	Div. Date	
Reinvest	LuxFr 826	LuxFr 1000	8.36	20/11/78	(Feb)
Capital Reinvest	LuxFr 1381	LuxFr 1000			(Capitalisation)
			1/4/78 High	31/3/79 Low	
Reinvest	LuxFr 918	LuxFr 814	LuxFr 918	LuxFr 814	
Capital Reinvest	LuxFr 1423	LuxFr 1305	LuxFr 1423	LuxFr 1110	

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and International Bonds of Austrian issuers**

Selected Austrian Schilling Bonds of Austrian issuers	Last Price	Yield to average life	Current Yield	Redemption (mandatory drawings by lot)
maturity over 5 years				
8 % Österreich 1973/B/81	102,—	7.11	7.84	15. 277-81 at 101.0
8 1/2% Österreich 1975/S/83	103.50	7.24	8.21	5. 376-83 at 100.0 to 101.0
8 1/2% Innsbruck 1974/B/82	102.50	7.36	8.29	19.11.75-82 at 100.5
8 1/2% Steyr-Daimler-Puch 1974/B/81	102,—	7.35	8.33	29.10.75-81 at 100.5

maturity over 5 years				
8 1/2% Österreich 1975/S/III/85	105.50	7.52	8.06	27.11.79-85 at 103.0 to 103.5
8 1/2% Österreich 1976/S/86	105.50	7.52	8.06	20. 2.81-86 at 101.5 to 104.0
8 % Österreich 1976/S/III/B/86	102.75	7.41	7.79	22.11.83-86 at 100.0
8 % Österreich 1977/III/B/86	102.50	7.40	7.80	15. 9.82-86 at 100.0
7 3/4% Österreich 1978/VI/C/86	101.75	7.43	7.62	7.11.86 at 100.0
8 % Arlberg Straßentunnel 1977/B/85	102,—	7.35	7.84	29. 7.80-85 at 100.0
8 1/2% Wien 1974/B/84	102.50	7.40	8.29	2. 7.75-84 at 100.0
8 1/2% Energie 1975/III/B + S/85	105.50	7.53	8.06	29.10.79-85 at 103.5
8 % Energie 1977/S/III/B/86	102.50	7.41	7.80	4.10.82-86 at 100.0
8 % CA-BV 1976/III/A/91	102.50	7.45	7.80	7.10.77-91 at 100.0
7 3/4% Export 1978/III/C/86	102,—	7.38	7.60	17. 8.86 at 100.0

Selected US-\$ Bonds of Austrian issuers	
5 3/4% Alpine Montan 65/85	6 % Rep. of Austria 64/84
6 5/8% Austrian Electricity 66/86	6 3/4% Rep. of Austria 67/82
6 3/4% Austrian Electricity 67/82	8 3/4% Rep. of Austria 76/90
9 1/2% Österreichische Kontrollbank 74/79 in Austrian Schilling (traded in US-\$ only)	8 1/4% Tauernautobahn 77/87

Interest is payable without deduction for or on account of Austrian taxes.  
For current prices and further information please contact:  
For Austrian Schilling Bonds: Robert Jekl, Robert Wasinger  
(Telephone: 6622/1701 or 1707, Telex: 74261-63)  
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**Good News from Berlin  
[Our 1978 Highlights]**

Business volume up 11%  
Customers' deposits up 13%  
Loans and discounts up 10%  
Net profit before taxation up 11%  
Equity up 14%  
of which  
Declared reserves up 15%  
Dividend 16%  
Number of accounts 851,537

Figures from our Accounts for the Year:  
(in DM million)

	1978	1977
Deposits	5,015	4,480
Due to banks	800	873
Due from banks	1,314	1,099
Lendings	3,543	3,220
Equity	266	234
of which		
Capital 95		
Declared reserves 171		
Business volume	6,545	5,899
Net profit before taxation	53.6	48.6

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مكتبة المصلح





# Why the fur has been flying in the battle for the Bay

**Takeover fever in Canada: The Brontman family yesterday bid for Brascan and Brascan bid for Woolworth, adding to the thrills of the Thomson's and Westons' struggle to acquire the Bay. Jim Rusk, Toronto Correspondent reports on the background to that fight.**

ANY TAKEOVER battle as large and as bitterly contested as the one now raging between the Thomson family and George Weston for control of Hudson's Bay Company would attract considerable interest. But this one has developed a special following.

While the men on stage may be businessmen, in their pin-striped suits, with their lawyers and management school whiz-kids in the background, there are also a number of colourful ghosts hovering around. In the case of the Hudson's Bay, the ghosts are the history, book character of the larger part of Canada. "The Governor" and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay, "one of the oldest chartered trading companies in the world, received its charter from Charles the Second in 1670 and will see the reign of Charles the Third, though under new ownership, no doubt. Without the Bay, it is safe to say there would be no Canada, as established, the British presence to the north and west of the French colonies in North America and its traders took the empire over the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific. Its traders were the first white men that many Indians and Eskimos saw

and its trading posts the first white settlements. While the Church of England priests soon followed the fur trader into the frozen Canadian North, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police did not come until two centuries later. Even today, in many settlements in the North, the fur trader, priest and Mountie are still the three most important representatives of white man's civilisation. The Bay was a model for the commercial expansion of the empire. The Hongs of the China trade, the East India Company and Cecil Rhodes's concession in Africa, all owed much to lessons learned from the Bay. And the Bay outlasted them all.

## Fur trade

Its trading posts are still found in the North. Indeed, the original one, Fort Rupert, built in 1688 on the trial voyage that convinced the merchants of London to start the company, is still being used, and the Bay still runs its fur auctions.

But from that start in the fur trade, the Bay has grown over the years into one of the largest merchandising organisations in Canada. The post stores grew along with the

Canadian West and are now department stores: the oil rights on the territory the Bay kept when the Government of Canada bought its lands shortly after Confederation are the backbone of Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas, a major resource company in which the Bay has a large interest.

The canny Scots traders who ran the Bay were the nucleus of the Canadian business community in the early years of the nation. For example, Donald Smith, who had been a governor (the title the Bay still uses for its chairman) of the Bay, was an early president of the Bank of Montreal and was the man who dropped the last spike when the Canadian Pacific railway linked Canada from east to west.

In the 1970s, the Bay has found a new vigour. The headquarters were moved from London to Winnipeg and the company has grown rapidly. Two of its boldest moves came only last year with the acquisition of Zellers, a Montreal-based junior department store chain, and of Simpsons, a leading Toronto-based department store company, making the Bay the largest non-food retailer in Canada.

Characteristically, the block is up for sale. The next gene-

ration of Westons is in charge. W. Galen Weston, 39, Garfield's youngest son, now runs the Canadian company. His brother, W. Garry Weston, runs the British, European and South African company business, Associated British Foods, which has no corporate links with George Weston in Canada although the two businesses, with their bakeries and supermarkets, are similar.

Mr. Weston the younger has done a remarkable job since he came to take the helm in Canada in the early 1970s. His father had assembled, often in secret, a hodge-podge of Canadian subsidiaries, many of them leaders in their markets. But the company's performance had slipped badly.

Today, the company is highly profitable and a highly-gearred balance sheet has been tightened up to the point where the company's paper is expected to receive AA rating for the first time in years, although the debt to be taken on if the Bay is acquired may put off the day when the rating is forthcoming.

Mr. Weston achieved this decade's turnaround with a set of plans taken from the basic textbooks of North American business schools. Tough young executives set and enforce plans and controls on companies that had largely been allowed to turn in any standard of performance. But that did not make sense, were sold off, whether profitable or not, and losing operations were pruned, although often only after a strong effort had been made to save them.

Weston now has four main divisions — food processing, food retailing and wholesaling, forest products and fisheries. The Bay's non-food merchandising and resource operations

do not overlap and Mr. Weston sees more room for growth in them than in many of his own businesses.

Of the three actors on the stage, the Thomson family has the shortest history, although its entrepreneurial record is also remarkable. The family and heirs of the late Lord Thomson of Fleet control two companies — Thomson Newspapers and the International Thomson Organisation and in the four decades from the time the late Lord Thomson bought a small newspaper in a mining town in northern Ontario these have grown to be one of the largest Canadian-based business empires. Thomson Newspapers operates a string of North American dailies, mostly in smaller cities, that is highly profitable. International Thomson, whose operations are largely in Britain, although the company is Canadian based, owns a number of publications, including The Times.

## Thomson bid

The family's proposed acquisition of the Bay is to be financed with North Sea oil profits from International Thomson's stake in the Piper and Claymore fields. However, if the family does acquire the Bay, it will not be through its two existing public companies but through two family holding companies.

The script for the play has been rewritten several times since the Thomson bid was announced on March 1. And even though the Bay's directors announced yesterday that they were recommending acceptance of Thomson's latest, unconditional offer of C\$37 a share for 17.32m A shares representing some 75 per cent of the Bay's common stock in a bid worth



Under Sir George Simpson, the 19th Century "Little Emperor" of the Bay, officers of the company met each year to settle the affairs of half a continent.

some \$640.8m, it is still not certain how the play will end. The plot has become more complicated as a result of the Canadian Government's announcement that it hopes to get a temporary injunction against the sale of the Bay. The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Sales, Mr. Warren Allmand, has said that the Government would seek the injunction in order to give it time to complete an investigation into the rival acquisition plans.

Federal Combines investigators launched their inquiry into the sale of the Bay after complaints from the Canadian Federation of Independent Businessmen, a group of small businessmen who feel that the Bay's merger with Weston would curtail the competitiveness of the market for many small dry goods that are sold in both grocery and department stores.

While the possible sale has not yet emerged as a major issue in Canada's federal election campaign, it has focused some attention on the weakness of Canadian combines law.

Unlike the U.S., which has strong anti-trust legislation dating back to the first decade of this century, or even Britain

with its Monopolies Commission, Canada has no vehicle which regularly considers and rules on mergers before they take place. Furthermore, price-fixing is covered by criminal rather than civil law and in order to effectively prosecute a charge, price watchdogs must prove that a criminal conspiracy existed.

As a consequence, the Government has had to stand on the sidelines as a spate of mergers and take-overs has reshaped Canadian business in the last two years. Many of them, such as these taking place in the oil and gas industry, could probably be defended as contributing to industrial efficiency; others have left Canadian politicians and the public wondering about the effects on competition in Canada.

## Merger law

The Bay itself attracted attention last autumn with its acquisition of Zellers and Simpsons. Although it was questioned in Parliament, nothing was done by federal authorities. Another proposed merger—the Domtar-MacMillan Bloedel affair—fell through under pressure from the Government of the Province of British Columbia.

It, too, brought out some public opposition but once again the federal government stood on the sidelines.

It is yet to be seen whether Mr. Allmand's investigation into the acquisition of the Bay, initiated under legislation which gives the Government authority to investigate the effect of the merger on competition but which has never been used to block a deal, is any more than a manoeuvre to get the Minister through the election campaign that ends on May 22. However, Mr. Allmand, who unsuccessfully tried to pass competition legislation in 1978, is known to be keen to try again if the Liberals are returned to power.

One way or another the fur has been flying in this series of old-fashioned takeover battles. Not only have they added spice to an extended bull market on the Toronto stock exchange which has been going up almost without interruption since the beginning of 1978. They have also given economists food for thought. At least some of the major bids seem to reflect a feeling in business that the period of slow growth in Canada may be coming to an end, and that it is best to acquire productive assets quickly before it is too late.

## Letters to the Editor

### Investment in steel

From the Vice-President, Arthur D. Little.

Sir—The article "A Steel revolution in the making" (April 4) questions the value of a big blast furnace such as the one at Redcar. We believe that the future of the UK steel industry lies in producing a reasonable proportion of the country's needs of tonnage steels at competitive costs (which is the objective at South Teesside) and in moving further towards higher value, higher margin steel based upon the electric furnace (as in South Yorkshire).

The electric arc furnace could not replace the new blast furnace at South Teesside, as there is simply not enough scrap available in Britain (3.5m tonnes per year) without seriously depriving existing UK scrap users of their supplies.

Plasma steel-making is an interesting technology, but it is still, at best, only in the laboratory stage. There is no way in which such a process could become a commercial proposition in ten years—certainly not on a scale capable of producing 10,000 tonnes per day at a single location. Nor is it clear from a capital investment standpoint, whether plasma steel-making will be less expensive than the coke oven—blast furnace—oxygen steel-making route used at Teesside.

The \$38.5m capital investment projected by Foster Wheeler is of the same order, per annual tonne of output, as the investment at the South Teesside complex. Further, the estimated operating cost for producing billets via the plasma steel-making route (\$154 per tonne) is unlikely to be much, if any, less than billet costs at the South Teesside location and the Foster Wheeler cost estimates "need generous margins for inaccuracies".

Plasma steel-making may be an interesting process for the future, but I think it is to be developed for the production of tonnage steels. To be cost competitive in those products during the 1980s, BSC must concentrate on achieving manufacturing levels and production efficiencies similar to those of its major competitors.

E. L. Pepper, Arthur D. Little, Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, London, W1.

### Shotton's fight

From the Vice-Chairman, Shotton Works Council, British Steel Corporation.

Sir—It must amuse and at the same time bewilder the workforce at Shotton reading the various comments being made about Shotton steelworks. We hope political opportunists are not going to make political capital out of the Shotton fight for an integrated steelworks. The political facts are that the Conservative Government in 1971-72 agreed the closure of steel making at Shotton. The Labour Government pledged a review of the 10-year strategy plan in 1973. This review is still taking place.

The 10-year strategy plan envisaged by the late Lord Meston and Dr. Finlinton is dead. The plan itself evolved around five integrated steelplants situated around the coast of Great Britain which would have produced 38m liquid tonnes per annum. Within British Steel Corporation we are averaging around 17m liquid tonnes per annum, below half the envisaged figure when the 10-year plan was envisaged in 1970. This has come about due to overcapacity throughout the world, in particular third world countries which have embarked on ambitious steelmaking plants for their own countries.

The problem facing BSC is overcapacity within certain plants in this country. For example, gentle hints have been made that Ravenscroft in Scotland may supply Shotton with hot rolled coil. Incidentally, Port Talbot is no longer mentioned in BSC terms as supplying Shotton with hot rolled coil. This in effect would close down Shotton's steelmaking. If this theory, for it is no more than a theory, was put into effect, we would expect to receive presumably by rail approximately 1m tonnes per annum of semi-finished steel to put into the best finishing plant in the world. We must ask ourselves at Shotton if this supply from Ravenscroft would be consistent and on time. If we examine the track record of Ravenscroft it fills our workforce with dismay. What it must do to our customers who are looking for Shotton steelworks to be their main supplier is anyone's guess.

The way forward for Shotton steelworks is to remain an integrated steelworks to enable us to give our customers a first class service based on consistent deliveries and quality, that is Shotton's plan. Shotton steelworks is still the best integrated steelworks in the Welsh division and the most successful. To the politicians we say do not look and invent reasons to close our steelmaking, rather encourage and devise ways to keep us an integrated steelplant spearheading the successful fight back by BSC that we at Shotton are sure is to come.

D. Fellows, Secretary, Steel Campaign Committee, Decside.

### Concealed tax increase

From Mr. A. E. Watson.

Sir—I have read a number of letters and articles on the suggested change over from road fund tax to petrol tax. While many, for instance like Mr. R. Ebbs (April 5) stress the cost of collecting and policing road fund tax all seem to accept that some form of annual registration will be necessary for the purpose of MOT tests and insurance and if it is not to become a farce, it is to be supposed that the processing of a registration form accompanied by a cheque costs much more than dealing with the same form minus the cheque? A marginal difference for financial accounting perhaps but not, surely, a substantial percentage. If it is accepted that tests and insurance checks are essential the costs of policing will presumably remain the same.

In these circumstances, leaving aside the question of which method is more equitable, it seems clear that the vehicle owner is still going to have to find the cost of registration plus petrol tax. From previous experience it seems unlikely that the cost of registration will be underestimated in the calculation so that the net result could well be concealed income in taxation.

A. E. Watson, 12, Bourne Road, Clatterworth, Grantham, Lincolnshire.

### Boxes and broughams

From Mr. David R. Currier.

Sir—It is difficult to hold out much hope for Britain's success in the microelectronic revolution when the most talked-about technological challenge in the country today appears to be the provision of enough tin boxes and printed paper to allow the citizenry to cast a democratic vote.

So far overlooked is the question of whether there will be sufficient horses and carriages available to carry people to the voting halls on May 3.

David R. Currier, Flat 3, 116, Park Road, Farnborough, Hants.

### Problems with the Revenue

From Mr. C. Dilloway.

Sir—Professors Constable and Heywood (April 4) both have problems with the Revenue. To an extent they contradict one another. Either we have more administration or less.

Professor Constable has a company. The Inland Revenue requires all returns if he is not trading. No return is not the same as a nil return as any tax evader will tell you. Professor Constable has to complete and submit quite a proportion of the forms he has received. The Revenue wants them then.

Professor Heywood was misled as your report of March 31 did less than justice to the Revenue's paper "PAYE—possible future developments". The Revenue's paper "seeks to provide a store of information and analysis to assist the decision-making process." The decisions are taken by an independent organisation Professor Heywood seeks. It's called Parliament. We now need informed discussion. Changes should and could be made. With 60,000 staff and 24m taxpayers the changes need to be very carefully thought through.

C. C. Dilloway, Dilloway and Son, Higlicroft, Gunhouse Lane, Bowbridge, Stroud, Glos.

### Assess your own taxes

From Mr. J. Ross.

Sir—On April 4 you published letters from Professors Constable and Heywood. The latter suggests that the tax men do not like self-assessment because it would reduce their responsibility and status and numbers employed. I think that he is considerably oversimplifying the problem.

I have recently had to deal with a Canadian tax form which does involve self-assessment and I doubt if anybody is going to teach over 95 per cent of the 10m or so persons employed and within the PAYE regulations to fill in anything like that type of form in less than five years from now, unless the heaviest of penalties are laid down in the taxing statutes, which will have to be enforced if they are to succeed.

I am certain that the majority of people will merely throw up their hands in despair when they see such forms, and will not fill them in properly, if at all. What we are likely to see is the American system, whereby a commercial firm will set up offices in towns throughout the United Kingdom to complete forms on behalf of taxpayers for a fee, and their work will then have to be checked by the tax man, which could well result in them spending as much time as they do under the present system.

It should surely be easy enough for the Inland Revenue to obtain a hundred or so blank forms from the American or Canadian Internal Revenue and invite comments on the forms from interested persons to see whether they are of the same opinion as myself.

Jack Ross, 16, John Dalton Street, Manchester.

### Oil crisis rising

From Mr. W. Whalley.

Sir—An event with far-reaching implications is taking place, unnoticed, before our very eyes. Oil production, world-wide, has passed a peak and turned down. Nothing we see indicates that the 1978 figure of 80m barrels a day will ever again be attained. The curve has been flattening for some years, despite important new additions from Alaska, the North Sea and of course Russia and China. A peak clearly was approaching in 1978, before the shutdown in Iran.

The inference is that the decline of older areas, such as the U.S., including even Texas, was acquiring a momentum which minor further increases in the former fields, or even in Arabia, cannot be expected to overcome. No dramatic flush, new discoveries are coming forward. No one foresees the production in the Gulf will return to 1978 levels in the near future, and even if it does the world 1980 figure, as well as 1979, would still be below that of 1978. Certainly the global decline will be slow. However, we can see that a loss of a few per cent a year would bite sharply into our accustomed way of life.

Surely it is now time to start examining where reductions in consumption may best be made. Preference, evidently, must go to agriculture for fuel and fertilisers. Aviation is an obvious candidate for curtailment. The flying of part-empty planes on parallel routes is indefensible. In a time of fuel shortages, holiday flights are bound to come under pressure. Continuance of work on a third London Airport is frivolous in the circumstances. The long-forgotten and often-debated oil crisis is now upon us.

W. C. R. Whalley, 105 High Street, Hungerford, Berks.

## Today's Events

**GENERAL**  
UK: Mr. James Callaghan tours High Peak, Struttford, and Moss Side constituencies; addresses rally in Stockport.  
Liberal election manifesto.  
Sir Freddie Laker signs multi-million contract for European airbus.  
Overseas: Mr. Josip Vrhovec on official visit to Ireland (until April 11).  
**COMPANY RESULTS**  
Final dividends: Aberthaw and Bristol Channel Portland Cement, Aquascutum and Associated Companies, Armitage Brothers, Associated Biscuit

Manufacturers, Astbury and Madeley (Holdings), Britannia Arrow Holdings, Channel Islands and International Investment Trust, Clifdons Dairies, Combined English Stores Group, Dickinson Robinson Group, Fothergill and Harvey, Gil and Duffus Group, Hewden-Stuart Plant, Higgs and Hill, S. Jerome and Sons (Holdings), London and Provincial Poster Group, Albert Martin Holdings, Mettoy Company, Minet Holdings, Municipal Properties, B. and I. Nathan, Provident Life Associa-

tion of London, Rhodesian Corporation, Rosediamond Investment Trust, Ribersol Selection Trust, John C. Small and Tidmas, G. W. Sparrow and Sons, Interim dividends: William Balton Group, M. P. Kent, Smiths Industries.  
**COMPANY MEETINGS**  
Anglo-International Investments, 20 Cannon Street, EC, 12, Berisford, Buglawton Park Recreational Centre, Congleton, Cheshire, 11, English and New York Trust, 20 Fenchurch Street,

EC, 345, First Scottish American Trust, Belsize House, West Ferry Dundee, 12, Greenfield, Regent Suite, Churchill Hotel, Portman Square, W, 12, IMI, Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham, 12, Tace, Essex Hall, Essex Street, W.C. 2.  
**OFFICIAL STATISTICS**  
Central Government transactions (including borrowing requirement) for March, London clearing banks' monthly statement for mid-March. UK banks' eligible liabilities, reserve assets, reserve ratios and special deposits for mid-March. Provisional figures of vehicle production for March.

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### Mercantile Credit

#### Flexible Finance



## New product delays leave Glaxo down and waiting

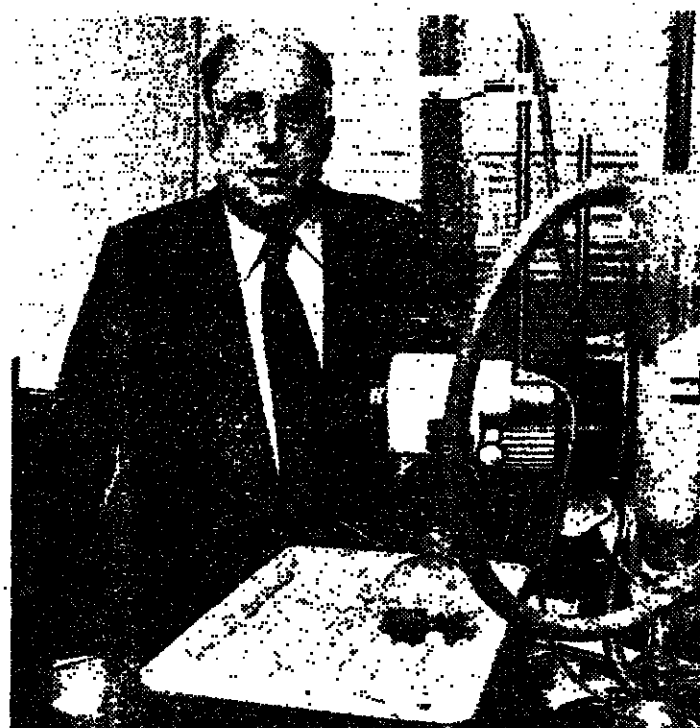
MARGINAL 2.2 per cent growth in trading surplus and a more than £5.5m adverse movement in the net interest figure, left Glaxo Holdings showing a £3.76m decline in taxable profit to £28.5m for the six months to December 31, 1978. Sales by the pharmaceutical, food and medical equipment producer were £15.8m up at £268.2m.

The modest rise in group sales and trading profit is an indication that new products are not yet contributing significantly to results, the directors say. This is because of the lengthy and expensive procedures required by national authorities before permission to market products is given.

In the meantime the company is strengthening its manufacturing and research resources for future expansion. Interest charges were higher this time because of acquisition costs in the U.S. In addition, without the substantial gains on selling Glaxo in 1977, investment income was lower leaving a net interest outflow of £2.2m, compared with a credit of £3.36m.

Tax little changed at £20.4m (£20.3m), left earnings per 50p share at a stated 18.5p (22.1p), or 17.6p (21p) fully diluted. The net interest dividend is stepped up to 5p (4.5p)—a net final of 6.9p was paid for 1977-78 from profit of £36.4m (£37m).

Group sales, excluding whole-



Mr. Austin Bide, chairman of Glaxo, photographed in the Greenford laboratories.

were 10 per cent better at £64m. In the UK Vetrie's turnover was 11 per cent up at £80.5m.

Changes in foreign exchange rates continued to put pressure on export profit margins and reduced the sterling value of overseas subsidiaries sales by £8m and their profits and net

current assets by £1.5m. Including 40 per cent of the profits of the former Nigerian subsidiary the share of associates surplus was £1.5m (£0.5m). Minorities of £0.5m (£0.7m) left attributable profit at £15.6m (£18.7m). See Lex

### HIGHLIGHTS

Lex looks at Glaxo where first-half profits have slipped back, competition is high and the benefits from important new drugs are proving slow to come through. Rowntree Macintosh has produced only modest growth for 1978—a year of intense competition from major competitors like Cadbury Schweppes and Mars. Lex also looks at two international subjects. In Canada there was a dramatic turn of events when Brascan put in a bid for the U.S. Woolworth company only to find itself on the receiving end of a partial bid from the Bronfman and Patino families. In Germany Bayer is last of three major chemical groups to report on 1978, and Lex sums up the picture. Elsewhere, Hambro Life produced better than expected figures and the price shot up 65p to 580p yesterday and Blackwood Hodge reports higher full-year profits.

## Aurora boosted by strong second half

A GOOD second half performance, giving profits of £2.68m against £1.45m, boosted Aurora Holdings, general and precision engineer, to a record £4.31m pre-tax for 1978 compared with a previous £2.51m. Turnover was more than doubled from £31.1m to £66.6m.

The directors state that the integration of Samuel Osborn, acquired in June 1978, has been successfully completed and all divisions are now contributing to profits. Its contribution came to £1.4m, after interest charges on the acquisition cost.

Pre-tax figure was struck after interest of £1.55m (£824,000) and subject to tax of £1.31m (£908,000) leaving an attributable balance of £2.58m against £1.5m. Earnings are shown as 16.9p (22.1p) per 25p share on increased capital, and the dividend is lifted from 5.28p to 5.98p net with a final of 4.41p.

### comment

The major factor in Aurora's buoyant 1978 performance is

the inclusion of recent acquisitions. Samuel Osborn, the special steels group, added £2.41m to sales and £1.4m to pre-tax profits, though it also squeezed overall margins and led to the jump in interest charges. Coltness, acquired in July 1977, contributed £750,000 to group profits in its first full year (£350,000 for five months of 1977). But there was also some organic growth from traditional operations, particularly from the fastener division and the quality machine tools distribution activities. The group now has its sights firmly set on expansion via the U.S. and will shortly announce the acquisition of a small U.S. company. The shares, at 99p, are on a p/e of 5.6 and a yield of 9.3 per cent which is a relatively undemanding return given the spread of group activities and the strengthening of the balance sheet that followed the sale, for £4.5m, of Osborn's South African subsidiary earlier in 1978.

## Louis Edwards to close meat canning side

Only four months after he took over the management of Louis C. Edwards and Sons, Mr. James Gulliver has decided to close down the loss making meat canning business.

Closure will come at the end of April and full provision for the losses and redundancies will be made in the accounts for 1978 which are due out shortly.

The news sent Edwards shares up 6p to 59p. Sales of canned meats for the year just ended amounted to £1.7m under both the company's own Crown label and "own label" names for customers. This represented less than 10 per cent of total sales of more than £18m. In 1977 total sales were £20m.

The group believes that the closure will free some £750,000 of assets, both fixed and current, net of all liabilities, which will be sold to strengthen the group's cash position.

Edwards had had a chequered career throughout the latter part of the decade and in December announced its worst ever pre-tax losses (£254,000) for the first six months of the year.

## Greenbank advances to £2.28m

TAXABLE PROFITS of Greenbank Industrial Holdings, engineer and property developer, rose from £2.16m to £2.28m in 1978, on higher external sales of £11.11m against £8.33m.

At halfway, the directors said the improved trading profit, up from £888,981 to £901,773, indicated another satisfactory year without the additional benefit of substantial foreign exchange gains.

Tax for the year took £1.3m (£1.15m)—tax provisions released £33,355 this time. The net total dividend is effectively raised from 1.19643p to 1.335p per 10p share, with a 0.685p A one-for-four scrip is also proposed.

There is an exchange loss this time of £24,500. Pre-tax profit included investment income of £161,568 (£151,822), and were struck after depreciation of £148,536 (£98,827).

## £1.53m for Collett Dickenson

A £0.22m downturn in the second half at Collett, Dickenson, Pearce International, advertising agency, left 1978 pre-tax profit at £1.53m against £1.39m. Turnover, including associated companies, was well ahead from £43.65m to £55.37m.

After tax for the year of £960,492 (£925,758), net profit came through at £566,464 compared with £460,501. The net final dividend is stepped up from 3.2686p to 3.65p per 10p share, with a 1.9119p final.

The extraordinary debit of £236,293 (£472,743) includes a loss of £163,591 (£70,810) arising on disposal and revaluation of shareholdings in subsidiary and associated companies including KVH Holding BV.

### NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF Brown & Sharpe International Capital Corporation

5% Guaranteed (Subordinated) Debentures due March, 1988.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated March 1, 1982, as amended, relating to the above mentioned Debentures, notice is hereby given as follows:

The Board of Directors of Brown & Sharpe International Corporation (the "Company") has determined that the conversion price of the above mentioned Debentures, payable March 25, 1983, to the holder, or record of the Common Stock on March 1, 1983, is:

A portion of the shares of Common Stock delivered in payment of the above mentioned Debentures, not requiring an adjustment of the conversion price of the above mentioned Debentures, may be converted into shares of Common Stock of Brown & Sharpe International Corporation has been authorized pursuant to the Indenture, effective March 1, 1982, to \$25.00 per share of Common Stock.

BROWN & SHARPE INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL CORPORATION

## Competition slows down Rowntree profit growth

TOTAL SALES of Rowntree Macintosh, the chocolate and sugar confectionery group, increased by 20 per cent to £563m in 1978 but, taking account of severe competition, trading profits came through 10 per cent ahead at £51.7m with margins down from 10 per cent to 9.2 per cent.

At the pre-tax level profits showed a rise from £41.48m to £45.07m, of which £33.58m (£29.48m) accrued in the second half.

Turnover 1978 1977 £562,705,462 £462,100,000 Trading profit 51,728,485 46,825,000 Profit before tax 45,070,482 41,480,000 Taxation 3,592,327 3,273,000 Net profit 41,478,155 38,207,000

Dividends and interest 1,704,176 1,676,000 Attributable ord. 36,248,308 33,538,000 Less: 388,338 388,338 Leaving 34,343,200 31,311,662 Ordinary dividends 7,020,328 6,228,000 Added to reserves 27,322,872 25,083,662

\* No provision made for deferred tax in respect of timing differences as such tax unlikely to be payable in foreseeable future. All comparative figures have been adjusted for adjustment on transition of overseas net assets into sterling.

Sir Donald Barron, chairman, reports that in the UK confectionery division volume increased by 5 per cent and there was a further increase in market share. Severe competition, however, led to some reduction in margins.

The associated companies division had an exceptionally good year but the grocery side, while increasing sales in volume and value, was hit by depressed margins common to the UK grocery trade.

Sales outside the UK again represented 47 per cent of the group total in 1978. Exports from the UK amounted to £81.5m, an increase of 23 per cent which was achieved in a much less favourable climate than in 1977.

The European division increased its sales value and volume with consequent higher market shares. Profits improved marginally. The overseas division had a very satisfactory year with record sales and profits.

### DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corresponding year	Total last year
Aurora	4.42	May 18	3.96	5.28
A. and C. Black	3.39	—	2.9	5.30
Blackwood Hodge	1.28†	May 25	1.07*	2.26
Bryant Hlgs.	1.04	May 31	0.95	2.61
Collett Dickenson	1.91	June 11	1.71	3.65
Dares Estates	0.5	July 1	0.5	0.5
Dorada Hlgs.	3.21†	May 25	2.23	4.58
Edinburgh Inv.	4.4	June 20	3.55	6.75
Glaxo	6.9	June 22	4.5	11.4
Greenbank	0.69	May 31	0.61*	1.34
Hambro Life	17.5	June 5	14.6	20.22
Highland Dist.	0.55	June 7	0.5*	1.61*
Joseph Holt	1.76	May 31	1.51	2.43
Kuntleigh	0.39	May 30	0.2*	0.78*
London Pavilion	12.5	May 18	12.5	12.5
Manor National	0.97†	June 1	2.6	3.55†
Richards (Leicester)	8.5	July 11	5.42	13
Rowntree	2.75	July 11	2.18	8.17
Wilmot-Breeden	2.24	July 2	1.88	3.44

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated. \* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡ Includes taking into account dividends already paid by Manchester Garages and Oliver Rix.

The chairman says that the current year did not start well. Supplies of raw materials and the group's own deliveries to UK export and European markets were affected, in some cases seriously, by the transport drivers' strike.

Earnings per 50p share are shown to be up from 68.5p to 70.3p. The final dividend is 8.5p as forecast at the time of the May 1978 rights issue, taking the total up to 13p compared with £1.875p. It is also proposed to capitalise £27m of reserves in a one-for-one scrip issue.

During 1978 the group continued its programme of heavy expenditure on fixed assets spending a gross total of £41.6m against £23.8m in 1977. Some £28m was in UK locations and £15.6m outside the UK. The 1979 capital expenditure budget amounts to £53m.

A statement of source and application of funds shows that the group financed the greater

part of growth requirements—a total of £82m for fixed and working capital—from its own resources. With the benefit of the £38m rights issue, the net cash position improved by some £17m.

See Lex

### EQUITY AND LAW

Mr. P. D. Cox, chairman of Equity and Law Life Assurance Society points out that although the company still wrote a substantial amount of business on young lives, there had been, as anticipated, a reduction in certain types of business following the change in commission structure. But these had been more than replaced by other business and the company now wrote a wider spread. It was intended to expand the range of unit linked products with the launch of a linked individual pension policies.

## Dorada finishes ahead at £1.6m and makes good start to year

AFTER £550,000 against £406,000 at six months, taxable profits of Dorada Holdings, motor vehicle distributor and engineer, finished 1978 up from £1.18m to £1.61m on turnover of £59.77m compared with £51.06m.

Mr. Thomas Kenny, chairman, says that despite the lorry drivers' strike and the bad weather, the group did better in the first quarter of the current year than last year, and at this stage he says the outlook for 1979 appears encouraging.

"I expect we shall continue our progress," he adds. On capital increased by last September's rights issue, gross earnings per 25p share, based on operating profits of £1.44m (£1.05m), are stated as 30.2p against 24.4p.

The dividend is increased by 10 per cent from 4.57525p to 5.03p with a net final payment of 3.21p, compared with a forecast 3.25p. Also proposed is a one-for-one scrip issue.

Pre-tax figure for the year included an exceptional credit of

£327,000 (£340,000), being the net surplus on property sales, less £163,000 (£229,000) exceptional costs.

Mr. Kenny says that the group's two main suppliers, Ford and Vauxhall were both affected by strikes in 1978 and as a result the group lost much profit.

All subsidiaries in the motor group section added profitably especially Croft, in Scotland. And further improvements are being made to the dealership in Huddersfield.

Most of the credit for the 56 per cent rise in the engineering side profit goes to Wicksteed at Kettering, the chairman states. Bona's fourty in Scotland is starting to show promise, he says, and the directors are sufficiently confident of the outlook that further capital expenditure is planned on the site.

### comment

After serious strikes at Ford and Vauxhall, two principal suppliers, Dorada has not been

able to do very much more than hint at what it might make in a year free of industrial disruption, for supplies were down by a third on 1977 levels, or the equivalent of some 300 new vehicles each month. As it is, trading profits from vehicle disruption climbed by 14 per cent and much of the upturn in the overall surplus can therefore be attributed to a fall in interest charges following the September rights issue and a recovery by the engineering division. Wicksteed was largely responsible for the engineering upturn while the Bona's country probably cut losses by £40,000 last year and is on target to return to profits this time.

Relocation of the Ford dealership network in Scotland is now mostly over but prospects for the current year rest heavily on the level of new registrations and unbroken vehicle production. On a fully taxed historic p/e of 7.6 and a yield of 7.9 per cent the shares, up 6p yesterday to 98p, are not over-optimistic.

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### 10 YEARS OF GROWTH

Group Profit before Tax

1969 £2,961,000

1970 £4,195,000

1971 £4,650,000

1972 £4,055,000

1973 £5,656,000

1974 £8,463,000

1975 £11,658,000

1976 £12,711,000

1977 £16,629,000

1978 £18,172,000

Turnover £273,430,000

1978 figures unaudited

## BLACKWOOD HODGE

From 28th April, 1979 copies of the 1978 Annual Report may be obtained from the Company Secretary, Blackwood Hodge Limited, 25 Berkeley Square, London W1A 4AX.

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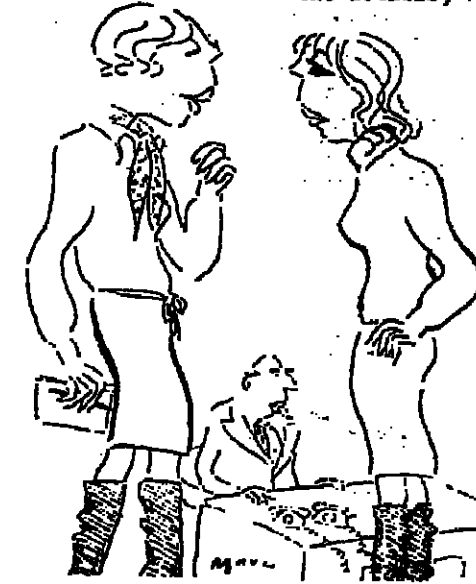
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# Housing side helps Bryant to £2.6m at halfway

INCLUDING associates' companies, Bryant's 1977-78 year was £2.6m (£2.6m) against £1.1m (£1.1m) for the year before an exceptional profit of £1.5m (£1.5m) was made up from £1.7m (£1.7m) to £2.6m (£2.6m) for the half year to November 30, 1978, and the directors are confident of record results for the year.

Pre-tax profits for the 1977-78 year were £2.5m (£2.5m) for the group before an exceptional profit of £1.5m (£1.5m) was made up from £1.7m (£1.7m) to £2.6m (£2.6m) for the half year to November 30, 1978, and the directors are confident of record results for the year.

The directors say that the sale of an investment property in one of the associates was largely responsible for the turnaround in their contribution.

Turnover was little changed at £11m against £11m.

The housing side of the company, the success achieved during the last year and made an encouraging start, the directors state.

Despite difficulties with mortgage, sales have been buoyant and the company's contribution to the group is largely responsible for the improved group results.

The company has also been successful in continuing to top up and increase the land bank.

The housing side of the company has been little more than a break even in the first half of the year, the directors say.

However, the margins on new contracts are improving and which the company should expect next year.

After the six months' tax charge of £1.0m (£1.0m) earnings are shown as 7.92p per share compared with a previous 2.43p and the interim dividend is increased from 0.656p to 1.042p net—last year's final payment was 1.534p.

## comment

Stripping out the surplus of dealing property disposals, Bryant's interim operating profit amounted to £1.7m which, with some £800,000 from associates in the full year, strongly suggests that a new annual profit record is in sight. Bryant takes the view that a long land bank is essential in the housebuilding industry and will be spending around £5m this year to achieve a holding worth almost five years production. The ensuing stock relief would, assuming full year profits of around £4.5m, increase the deferred tax balance to around £7.4m. On the eventual adoption of SSAP 15, the resultant level of reserves would be sufficient to support a scrip issue. The shares climbed 5p yesterday to 66p where the yield, assuming a 10 per cent dividend increase this year, is 6.3 per cent.

## Woodside finds more gas

AUSTRALIA'S Woodside Petroleum yesterday reported "encouraging" shows of gas in the top of the Oryx section in the group's Pueblo wildcat on the North West Shelf, reports Don Lipcombe from Perth. The well is being deepened to locate the vertical extent of the

hydrocarbon bearing section. No details of depth were given. Pueblo is in the middle of a series of gas, gas-condensate and series Rankin Trend wells that include the Tidepole oil-gas find. The report has intensified the focus on interest on this area of offshore Australia, where in the deeper water of Exmouth Plateau, the dynamically-positioning Sedco 472 drillship is approaching the critical depth for the Zeewulf wildcat, with Esso operator for the BHP-Esso partnership.

## Huntleigh expands to £950,481

SECOND HALF 1978 profits of Huntleigh Group, the engineering and electronics concern, expanded from £262,000 to £447,000 taking the total for the year up to a record £950,481 compared with £731,000 in 1977. The directors had forecast profits well ahead of last year.

Earnings per 10p share are stated to be up from 4.9p to 5.6p. The dividend is effectively raised from 0.67p to 0.76p with a final of 0.39p.

Group turnover shows an increase from £8.7m to £9.5m. The profit was struck after an exceptional debit of £28,509 (£28,720) but before tax of £308,756 (£159,634).

# Manor National profit over £1m

IN ITS first year of operation, Manor National Group Motors reports 1978 pre-tax profits of £1.1m, compared with £0.6m for the previous period. Turnover of the company, which arose from the merger last year between Manchester Garages and Oliver Rix, amounted to £47.18m, against £37.18m.

The results comprise those of Manchester Garages for the year to December 31, 1978 and of Rix for the 15 months to end 1978. Comparatives are for the combined accounts of the two companies for the years to December 31, 1977, and September 30, 1977, respectively.

Trading profits before interest reached £1.64m, compared with £1.23m. Tax takes £153,000 (£28,000) and there were extraordinary debits of £261,000 (£80,000).

Stated earnings per 20p share were 4.9p and as forecast, the dividend is 0.67p, which together with the special interim already paid by Manchester Garages and Rix represents an annual gross rate of 3.2p.

The directors say the merger has been successfully completed with very little disruption, although some rationalisation will need to take place.

Commenting on future trading, they say the increase in interest rates coupled with the serious industrial disputes has not made the start of the current year an easy one.

However, they are confident that, subject to the company being able to replace its lost

turnover and profits from the Greve/Nantwich sale, it should be able to achieve favourable results in 1979 with the full benefit of the merger coming from 1980 onwards.

In accordance with the conditions imposed by the merger concerning the disposal of the Greve/Nantwich depots, provisional letters of contract have now been exchanged with a prospective purchaser, a substantial British public company and completion should take place soon.

This sale will realise funds of nearly £1m and will reduce interest charges considerably.

Urgent attention is being given to the replacement of these businesses to give a more profitable return from the capital.

## Edinburgh Inv. Trust improves

Gross revenue for the year ended March 31, 1979, of Edinburgh Investment Trust rose from £4,140,397 to £4,427,647, and the attributable balance emerged higher at £2,169,248 compared with £1,961,511.

A final dividend of 4.4p net, lifts the total from 6.75p to 7.8p per £1 deferred share, absorbing £2,162,160 (£1,971,100).

Deducting prior charges at nominal value, net assets are shown at £29.6p (266.7p) per share.

# Hambro Life £8m surplus: raises dividend by 17.7%

A 31 PER CENT increase in the after-tax actuarial surplus is reported for 1978 by Hambro Life Assurance. The end-year actuarial valuation disclosed a surplus of £8.3m, compared with £6.3m at the end of 1977.

A final dividend of 17.8024p per share is recommended, bringing the total to 23.8024p net, an increase of 17.7 per cent over the 1977 dividend of 20.2312p.

Under current dividend restraint, the maximum dividend that may be declared is limited by the highest dividend cover in the relevant period which, for newly listed companies excludes pre-1975 years, but does include the actual years of flotation. Hambro Life was floated in 1976, and the ratio of actuarial surplus to dividends paid was 1.74.

The current dividend is based on this value and the Treasury has given its consent.

The directors have transferred from this surplus in the long term assurance fund to the profit and loss account only the amount required to meet this dividend. The remainder has been retained in the long term assurance fund. Thus £4.8m has been transferred to cover the cost of dividends and £3.5m has been added to the retained actuarial surplus bringing the amount to £11m.

The company reports that new business for the current year is running substantially ahead of sales in the corresponding period in 1978.

It is also proposed to split the company's shares, each 25p share being split into 5p shares.

## comment

Hambro Life's excellent new life business results over the past two years paid off in 1978 with profits up by one-third and dividends lifted by well in excess of 10 per cent. The outlook for this year is even better. New business is ahead of 1978 and being based on single premium bonds and individual pension contracts is self-financing, unlike traditional life business. If dividends restraint is lifted then lowering the cover to 1977's 1.3 times and a 15 per cent increase in surplus would enable a 30 per cent rise in dividends. But on top of that, there is £11m accumulated surplus standing idle, though there would be a tax penalty on transfer to the profit and loss account. The share price jumped 65p to 580p on the results to yield 6.3 per cent gross.

Profits at the six months stage were £138,000 (£135,000).

The year's earnings are stated as 18.6p (15.3p) per 25p share and a final dividend of 3.89p lifts the total from 4.9p to 5.39p net.

Tax for the period took £160,000 against £156,000 and the balance was boosted by an extraordinary credit of £28,000 (nil).

## Richards (Leicester) profit fall

PRE-TAX profits of Richards (Leicester), structural and mechanical engineer, iron-founder, fell from a record £860,786 to £524,579 for 1978 on turnover of £5.91m against £5.71m.

At the halfway stage directors reported profits down from £233,000 to £242,000.

After tax for the year of £256,589 compared with £320,897, net profits came out at £267,680 (£339,889) giving earnings of 13.4p (17p) per 25p share. The dividend is stepped up to 4.2515p net with a final of 2.7515p; last year's total is boosted to 3.8472p with an additional payment of 0.0385p. Dividends will cost £85,800 (£76,880), leaving £181,880 (£263,009) retained.

## Profits little changed at A. & C. Black

The directors of A. & C. Black, publisher, report little change in pre-tax profits for 1978 of £340,000 against £314,000 last time, on turnover of £2.26m compared with £2.04m.

# Mitchell Cotts Group Limited

Unaudited interim Results for the Six Months ended 31st December 1978

	Six months 31/12/78	Six months 31/12/77	Year ended 30/6/78
Turnover	£'000 125,182	£'000 124,741	£'000 263,697
Group Profit before Interest and Taxation	4,466	6,094	13,229
Interest	1,999	1,643	3,447
	2,467	4,451	9,782
Group share of profits of associated companies	1,201	1,311	454
Group Profit before Taxation	2,668	4,582	10,236
Taxation	1,458	2,463	5,362
Group Profit after Taxation	1,210	2,119	4,874
Minority interests	216	400	958
Extraordinary items	994	1,719	3,916
	339	(63)	(288)
Net Profit Attributable to Mitchell Cotts Group	1,333	1,656	3,628

The results for the six months ended 31st December 1978 are, as forecast, below those for last year.

As foreseen in the last Chairman's Statement, the main element in the reduced profits arises from a lower level of activities in the field of engineering projects both in South Africa and Australia; additionally, in common with many other companies, we have been faced with industrial unrest in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, as well as adverse weather conditions in Europe.

Although we would expect the second half of the year to be more satisfactory than the first, the adverse conditions continued into the third quarter and the decline in profits for the year is likely to be greater than was expected at the time of my last Statement.

An unchanged interim dividend of 0.65625 pence per share has been declared on the ordinary shares and will be paid on 4th June 1979 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 30th April 1979.

P. P. DUNKLEY,  
Chairman.

**Mitchell Cotts Group Limited**  
Cotts House, Camomile Street, London,  
EC3A 7BJ. Telephone: 01-283 1234

For a copy of the interim statement please contact the Secretary

# Montfort (KNITTING MILLS) LIMITED

Selected points from the statement by the Chairman, Mr. M. J. Meehan, and from the report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 1978.

- Turnover up — by 9.4% to £10.1 million.
- Profits up — net profit before taxation higher by 65%, an all time record.
- Dividend up — an increase of 12% on ordinary share capital expanded by one third as a result of the recent rights issue.
- Investment up — expenditure on new plant and machinery was the highest ever and the capital programme will be maintained at least on the same scale for 1979.

Despite some lack of buoyancy in the consumer market, Montfort is maintaining an upward trend. Current bookings are the highest on record and the Directors confidently expect further substantial rise in profits for 1979, justifying another increase in dividends.

Group Results	1978	1977
Turnover	£10,078,004	£9,210,722
Exports	£1,378,788	£1,424,703
Profit before taxation	£528,058	£318,180
Profit after taxation	£363,567	£184,059
Dividends per share (net)	3.925p	3.490p
Earnings per share	15.932p	7.989p

## Directors

I must begin this Statement by referring to the retirement from the Board of Sir Richard Cave MC, owing to his other heavy commitments. He was appointed to the Board in December 1972, and his wise guidance has been of the greatest value to the Society. We are indeed sorry to see him go.

## New Business

1978 was a good year for new business with new annual premiums of £19.3m (£14.4m in 1977), new single premiums of £29.8m (£15.3m in 1977) and new sums assured of £898m (£778m in 1977). As was expected, new group business in the United Kingdom from new schemes and extensions to existing schemes was especially buoyant as a result of the introduction of the new State Pension Scheme. New annual premiums for this business were £4.7m (£1.1m in 1977) and new sums assured £130m (£34m in 1977). In addition increments under existing schemes brought new annual premiums of £4.3m and new sums assured of £83m.

For individual business, new single premiums showed a spectacular increase largely because of the successful marketing in the United Kingdom of Guaranteed Income and Growth Bonds for which £14.4m was received. New annual premiums and new sums assured under individual contracts showed increases both in the United Kingdom and overseas. The totals were £10.2m and £682m respectively; about a quarter of this business was written in Holland.

## Premium Income

The total premium income was £114.5m of which £14.2m arose in Holland; this was the first time the total exceeded £100m. Its excellent growth in recent years is shown as follows:

	Annual premiums £m	Single premiums £m	Total premiums £m
1974	43.7	7.4	51.1
1975	58.4	13.7	72.1
1976	67.5	11.4	78.9
1977	74.6	16.3	90.9
1978	84.2	30.3	114.5

## Assets

Over the year the yield on long-term British Government securities rose by 2% to a little over 13%, and as a consequence the market value of the Society's UK fixed interest stocks fell by £38m. However there were rises in the values of our equities and, especially, of our properties, so that the net depreciation of the assets of the Society was £28m.

New money for the Society in the year amounted to £85m of which £73m was in respect of United Kingdom business. This latter was invested in broadly the same proportions as our existing assets. The new property investment in the United Kingdom was spread between industrial property, shops and farms. In January 1978 the Society increased its holding in Grandvillers Properties Limited from 49% to 75% and its interests were therefore included in the Consolidated Accounts. This company, formed in 1972, has investments totalling £220m in properties, mainly in Belgium, Germany and Holland. These investments are financed by borrowings, which are partly guaranteed by the Society. All the completed properties are substantially let, and I believe that the company has a sound portfolio which will prove profitable.

The invested assets of the Society amounted to £760m, of which £55m was in respect of business in Holland. In addition Equity & Law (Managed Funds) Limited had assets of almost £60m. The investment funds of this company have an excellent performance record and we intend to secure increased business.

## Investment Income

The Society's investment income was £56.4m, more than double the figure for 1975. This satisfactory increase arose from substantial increases in equity dividends and property rents and also because during the last three years £160m was added to our holdings of fixed interest stocks in the United Kingdom, almost all at yields of more than 12%.

## Bonus

With effect from the 1st January 1979 we introduced a new form of terminal bonus for individual business in the United Kingdom under which the rate of bonus depends on the year in which the policy commenced and the bonus is allotted on both the sum assured and the reversionary bonuses attaching to it. We consider that this new system provides a more suitable basis, especially when investment conditions have been changing substantially. As a consequence policies now becoming claims receive higher bonuses than they would have done under the old system; the results compare favourably with those of similar policies issued by other offices.

We have also increased the rates of bonus on individual pension policies from 3.65% to 4.0% and on group policies by 0.5%, to 3.5% on profit-sharing policies and to 5.75% on equity pension schemes.

## Liabilities

The investment reserve has been increased by £4m to £79m and certain changes have been made in the basis for valuing the Society's liabilities. The rates of future bonus assumed for certain contracts and the provision for renewal expenses have both been increased and the rates of interest used have been increased in line with the estimated running yield on the assets.

## Dividend

The Shareholders' allocation of the divisible surplus is £1,572,000, an increase of £212,000 over the previous year. Of this increase £53,000 arose from the higher rates of bonus allotted, but the increases in the rates of interest used in the valuation of the liabilities have led to a reduction of £37,000 in the allocation.

# Equity & Law

## Life Assurance Society Limited

Statement by the Chairman, Mr P D J H Cox.

The total earnings in the Other Business Fund, including interest less expenses but excluding capital depreciation, are £1,722,000. The Directors recommend that a dividend of 7.75p be paid — an increase of 15.9% over that paid last year. This will cost £1,552,000 leaving £170,000 to be added to the retained earnings. Treasury consent has been received for this payment. The Directors also recommend an additional dividend for the year 1977 of 0.1p arising from the reduction in the rate of Advance Corporation Tax after last year's dividend was declared.

## Articles of Association

A memorandum and covering letter to Shareholders are enclosed with the Report and Accounts. These explain, and recommend the Shareholders to agree to, a proposed change to Article 77 which gives the Directors discretion as to the treatment of tax in relation to the allocation to the Shareholders in respect of bonus allotted to annuity business. I believe that the amendment will enable the Directors to preserve fairly the principle of dividing the distributed surplus between policyholders and Shareholders in the long-standing ratio of 9 to 1.

## Administration

Work in connection with the introduction last April of the new State Pension Scheme has been considerable. I am pleased to be able to say that all pension schemes insured with the Society which opted to contract out of the new State Scheme were in fact contracted out before the starting date. None the less there remains a substantial volume of consequential work to be done this year.

Another very large volume of work has arisen because of the Government's decision that life assurance premiums will, from April this year, be collected net of life assurance premium relief — whereas hitherto the premiums have been collected gross and the relief has been granted to the policyholder by the Inland Revenue, usually through the PAYE system. Because of this we have brought forward a major revision of our systems for collecting premiums, and in writing to all policyholders in connection with the changed arrangements we have persuaded many of those who previously paid by other means to pay under direct debit arrangements, which will be more economical and efficient. I believe that the new arrangements for relief will also prove beneficial to the Society in that many new policyholders, now that they will receive the relief when they pay each premium, will choose to pay a net premium of the same amount as the gross premium they would have paid under the old arrangements.

## Outlook

In the United Kingdom we intend continuing our established policy of selling a wide range of policies through well-qualified intermediaries — brokers, banks, solicitors and accountants — and of providing the high standard of service which they and their clients expect. In recent years we have broadened the spread of our new business, partly as a result of introducing new types of contract, especially unit-linked contracts for individual savings and for group pension schemes; we intend over the next year expanding further our range with unit-linked individual pension policies. The units to which these contracts are linked have all shown excellent records of performance.

Reference has been made in previous Chairman's Statements to the changes in the rates of initial commission on individual business. These were implemented in October 1976, and the transitional arrangements which the Society granted to certain agents to enable them to adjust to the changed terms ended in June 1978; since then the new terms have been fully operative. Whilst we continue to write a large volume of policies providing cover for young lives, we have seen, as we anticipated, a substantial reduction in certain types of this business. We are particularly pleased, therefore, that these reductions have been more than replaced by other business and that we are now writing a wider spread of business. We are confident that there will be a further increase in the intake of individual new business in the United Kingdom. Because new group business in the United Kingdom was boosted in 1978 by the introduction of the new State Pension Scheme, we cannot expect similar new business this year from new schemes or extensions to existing schemes. However, substantial increases to benefits under existing schemes will arise because of the continued inflation of salaries and wages.

In Holland we write business exclusively through the banks and leading insurance brokers. In less than 10 years of operating there we have secured a substantial share of the individual life market and our aim is steadily to increase our share of this market which is itself expanding at a significant rate. To have built up an organisation in Holland to secure and handle this volume of business efficiently is a tribute to the ability and enthusiasm of our young Dutch staff.

In Germany the market is quite different and requires a different approach. We employ a small team of salesmen who offer a wide-ranging financial service to the higher income groups. We are now expanding this team but it will be some years before our business in Germany is likely to form a significant proportion of our total business.

It is difficult, particularly in times of high rates of inflation, to preserve an appropriate balance between providing a good standard of service to policyholders and agents and containing expenditure. To achieve this we have to reconsider and revise both the nature of the services provided and the ways in which they are performed. In addition, because the markets in which we operate have become increasingly competitive, we have been giving special attention to marketing and to the revision and replacement of our contracts. The results have been encouraging.

## Staff

It was with particular sorrow that we heard of the death of Bill Taylor which occurred not long after his appointment as an Assistant General Manager. In a total of over thirty years' devoted service with the Society, nearly five were as Agency Manager, a position he filled with great success. We miss him very much. Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I express my warmest thanks to the staff of the Society, at Head Office and at the Branches both in the United Kingdom and overseas. Their efficiency and devotion under the skilful leadership of the General Manager, Mr Michael Burns, is a source of considerable strength to the Society and I say this most sincerely.

	1978 £ million	1977 £ million
New sums assured	896	778
Sums assured in force	4,524	4,103
New annual premiums	19.3	14.4
Total premium income	114.5	90.9
Payments to policyholders	46.1	40.9
Group net assets (market value basis)	799	709
Investment reserve	79	75
Dividend—cost per share	1.55 7.75p	1.36 6.7867p

\*Including 0.1p payable this year.

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, 20 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3ES.



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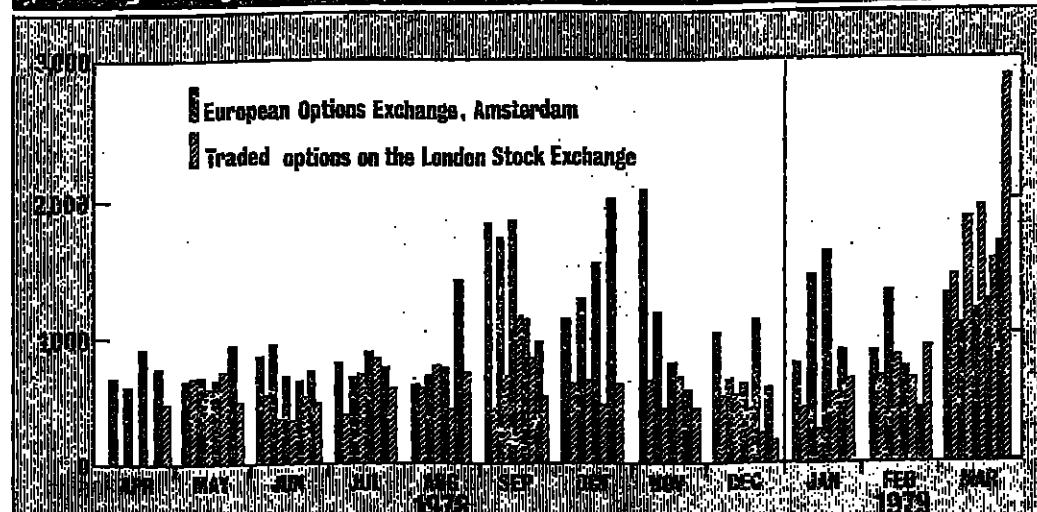
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# Poor start for European options

BY JAMES BARTHOLOMEW

## Average daily contracts in the first year of European traded options



Direct comparison between volume on the two exchanges is difficult. London contracts are for 1,000 shares, Holland are for 100, but the Dutch shares are more highly priced. Average premium per contract in London has been about £189; in Amsterdam £125.

The hall seems practically empty. Only one of the stands is in frequent use, the brokers' booths are barely used and the computer is working well below capacity.

It is not only the finances of the exchange which suffer from this inactivity. Some members—notably the clearing members who process some of the paper-work—are also having to carry the burden of their capital investment. They rented offices, hired staff and bought equipment.

What has gone wrong? In Britain the answer is simple. The Government has not actively supported the new market. It has not, or at least not yet, removed the major obstacle to the market's success: harsh tax treatment.

Options are currently taxed as "wasting assets". This means that the acquisition cost of an option for capital gains tax purposes diminishes as the life of the option goes by. So towards the end of its life an option is considered by the taxman to have cost practically nothing. And an investor who sells one for the same amount for which he bought it will be taxed as though he had made a profit.

Volume on the London exchange was growing until the Inland Revenue formally stated the tax position last September in reply to a private inquiry. The Revenue's statement that the taxation would be as harsh as had been feared, with no concessions for institutions such as the pension funds, drove the market into the ground. It remained practically dormant for several months until the recent upsurge of the London stock market.

The price rises and increased

exchange on the grounds that it would amount to an export of capital. The argument is dubious since for every loser in options there is also a winner. And the French were permitted to deal in all options other than French ones.

The British stock exchange refuses to supply up-to-date prices of the underlying shares. These prices vital to the operation of an options market and they are readily available to the London options market. Without them Amsterdam does not stand a chance.

The London jobbers say they fear unfairly well-informed dealings if up to date prices are sent to Amsterdam—or indeed anywhere else. But this argument looks a little thin while the prices are on television screens on the traded options pitch in London.

The executives of the Dutch exchange, doubtless find it extremely frustrating to come up against national obstacles such as these. The most bizarre of them has cropped up in Germany. An option there is considered by the law to be a bet. If someone loses a bet in Germany he does not have to pay up—in fact he can even claim his money back if he paid in advance. This makes the banks in Germany understandably reluctant to take orders for options from their clients.

The Dutch reaction to these problems has been remarkably diplomatic. They go on talking and charming and trying to persuade. Mr. Ewald Brouwer, the chairman, takes his philosophy, saying that Robeco, the Dutch-based international investment trust of which he was chairman, took five years to obtain a listing in Switzerland and six years to get one in Japan. Some countries will also take a long time to give the European Options Exchange a chance, he says, but in the end they will be persuaded that Robeco.

Only reluctantly do the Dutch admit that they might, in the long run, resort to tougher tactics. The obvious weapon would be the Treaty of Rome. The Dutch might one day claim that the French Government and the British Stock Exchange were unfairly restricting competition. The British financial community has been made increasingly aware that it is subject now to an EEC motion of fair play. Only four months ago the regulation of money brokers was changed in accordance with EEC demands.

The Stock Exchange might be under investigation by the EEC even now were it not for the fact that the Office of Fair Trading is already probing into the exchange's restrictive practices.

**MARTINI**

Foree...  
When you come to...  
ram has...  
of fore...  
relics on...  
Which with a bit of...  
should include plenty of...  
Vermont...  
black...  
This...  
silver lining because...  
it pours.

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The right one just by its...

## Hudson's Bay Company

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670

The following are extracts from the  
Bay's Directors' Circular dated April 8, 1979

This Directors' Circular is issued in connection with the offer dated April 4, 1979 (the "Weston Offer") by George Weston Limited ("Weston") as amended on April 6, 1979, to holders of ordinary shares of Hudson's Bay Company to acquire 13,855,000 ordinary shares (45% control) of the Bay at a price of \$10.00 per share. The full terms are set out in the Weston Offer.

Reference is also made to the Thomson Offer dated March 15, 1979, and to the Directors' circular with respect to that offer dated March 23, 1979, in which the Directors recommended that shareholders prepared to renounce the prospects of the Company over the next few years should not accept the offer. The Thomson Offer was amended on March 31, 1979, and on April 2, and the offer is now for 75% of the Bay shares at a price of \$37.00 payable in cash. It is no longer conditional upon the deposit of any minimum number of shares and the expiry date has been extended to April 17, 1979.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Directors have concluded on the basis of advice from the Company's financial advisors that the value of the Thomson and Weston offers per Hudson's Bay Company share are now approximately equal. However, the Weston Offer is conditional upon Weston's obtaining 45% of the outstanding shares, and is subject to other uncertainties and disadvantages which are discussed under the heading "Reasons for Recommendation".

The Board of the Bay has been advised by its financial advisors that, in view of the substantial premium of both offers over the pre-offer market price (\$23.00), many shareholders will wish to accept one of the offers. The advisors have also stated that some major shareholders will very likely accept the unconditional Thomson Offer which now closes on April 17, and thus will be assured that at least 75% of their shares will be purchased under the offer.

In all these circumstances, the Directors recommend, in the absence of any further amendments to either the Thomson Offer or the Weston Offer, that shareholders should accept the Thomson Offer rather than the Weston Offer.

The Directors suggest shareholders deliver their shares to their financial agents with instructions not to deposit until close to the deadline for acceptance of the Thomson Offer so that they will retain their options in case there are further developments.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

In the Directors' circular dated March 23, 1979, relating to the Thomson Offer, the Directors valued the ordinary shares of the Bay on a net asset basis at not less than \$17.00 before tax and \$16.00 after tax. On an earnings basis, using projected 1983 earnings of \$8.25 per share and applying appropriate earnings multiples and discount factors, the Board arrived at a present value of from \$37.00 to \$40.00 per share. While the Weston Offer is within the range of values suggested by the Board and has potential tax advantages to certain shareholders, it has the following disadvantages and uncertainties.

A. It is conditional upon acceptance by holders of 45% of the shares. Accordingly there is a possibility that sufficient shares may be tendered under the Thomson Offer to make it impossible for Weston to secure 45% of the shares. Thus shareholders may not be able to sell their shares under the Weston Offer.

B. Weston's current financial structure, with its present leverage, could have an adverse effect on the future ability of the Bay to finance its long term development programme and to achieve the earnings projections set out in the Directors' circular dated March 23, 1979.

C. The Company understands that the Director of Investigation and Research under the Combines Investigation Act is considering whether the proposed acquisitions by Weston and by Thomson constitute an illegal merger. Such a merger includes an acquisition of a business of "computer, supplier, customer or any other person" whereby competition

(a) in a trade or industry,  
(b) among the sources of supply of a trade or industry,  
(c) among the outlets for sales of a trade or industry or otherwise,  
"is, or is likely to be, lessened to the detriment or against the interest of the public". A court, if convinced that either acquisition was likely to lessen competition to the detriment of the public, could order the merger to be dissolved or could order that it not be consummated.

Counsel for the Company have advised that, although it is not possible to express a firm opinion without a thorough investigation of the businesses likely to be affected by the merger, there is less risk of action being taken to dissolve the Thomson merger than the Weston merger.

The Thomson Offer states that if the bid is successful, no changes will be made in the business or operations of Hudson's Bay Company and accordingly the business thrust of the Company will be maintained.

The Thomson Offer is for cash and for 75% of the shares while the Weston Offer is for 60% of the shares and requires that the aggregate consideration be paid part in cash and part in preferred shares.

This notice is published for shareholders' convenience only. Please refer to the full text of the Directors' circular which will be mailed shortly to shareholders.

This advertisement has been issued by Hudson's Bay Company.







This announcement appears as a matter of record only

## Remington Products, Inc.

has acquired the

## Sperry Remington Consumer Products Division

of

## Sperry Rand Corporation

The undersigned acted as financial advisor to Remington Products Inc. in this transaction.

## Chemical Bank International Group

February 27, 1979

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Companies  
and Markets

## INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

# U.S. acquisition underpins Bayer

BY GUY HAWTIN IN FRANKFURT

BOOSTED BY the first time consolidation of the results of Miles Laboratories of the U.S., the West German chemical group Bayer has managed to lift 1978 pre-tax profits by 13 per cent to DM 1.24bn (\$314m).

Even so, Bayer's figures—like those of its rivals BASF and Hoechst—show signs of a steady revival in the West German chemical industry's performance. Group world sales rose by 6.8 per cent from DM 21.3bn to DM 22.84bn (\$2.1bn) with Miles contributing 5.4 points of the increase.

A breakdown of world performance figures shows further

improvement in the final quarter of the year. Fourth quarter world sales were up by an average of 7.4 per cent from DM 5.19bn in comparable period of 1977 to DM 5.57bn—a movement also noticeable in the BASF and Hoechst returns.

Business was better overseas than at home for the West German parent concern although earnings and sales figures were depressed by the weakness of the dollar on the foreign exchange. Sales of Bayer rose by a meagre 0.4 per cent from DM 9.93bn in 1977 to DM 9.97bn.

According to the report, domestic sales fell back from the

previous year's DM 4.22bn to DM 4.07bn, while exports rose from DM 5.71bn to DM 5.96bn. Exports as a proportion of total turnover therefore increased further from 1977's 57.5 per cent to 59.2 per cent.

Again the returns show a substantial improvement in the final quarter's exports. These were up 7 per cent on the comparable period of 1977 from DM 1.56bn to DM 1.65bn. In contrast, domestic sales fell back 1 per cent from DM 9.70bn to DM 9.65bn.

Pre-tax profits rose at a far slower rate than the world figures. They increased 3.5 per cent to DM 776m, after dropping

13.5 per cent in 1977 to DM 750m.

The executive board said in the report that that volume throughput in the final quarter produced improved capacity utilisation at the parent's plants, but sales prices declined further. They particularly affected exports as a result of the strong decline in the value of the dollar against the D-Mark.

At the same time, overheads—in particular, personnel energy and freight costs—rose further. A 1.2 per cent decline in the labour force was more than offset by a 4 per cent increase in personnel costs.

## Heavier loss from Dutch shipbuilder

By Charles Batchelor in Amsterdam

Holland's largest shipbuilding company, Rijnscheider Verolme (RSV), incurred a loss of Fl 58.9m at the pre-tax level for 1978 and sees no immediate respite from these weak trading conditions despite substantial government support. In 1977, losses totalled Fl 46.5m.

Despite "considerable" government support for loss-making contracts in the shipbuilding and offshore divisions, RSV expects to incur large losses on these activities. The group is unable to maintain this extensive capacity from its own resources, it said in a statement.

The company's provisional operating result worsened by around Fl 67m in 1978 to produce a loss of Fl 77.5m (\$38.5m). After extraordinary items, principally the loss on the sale of company housing, the pre-tax loss was Fl 58.9m. Net losses after a tax receipt of Fl 1.1m and a loss of Fl 1.8m on participations were Fl 59.7m against Fl 49.6m.

The final accounts will be drawn up when the Government has decided on a solution for the company's problems, it said.

The Dutch cabinet last week said it expected to announce a decision in about six weeks' time. However, after a lightning strike last Friday at Verolme Dok en Scheepswaerf by the 2,800-strong workforce, talks between the Government, unions and RSV's management were brought forward to today.

Much of the 1978 loss was caused by the poor results of the shipbuilding and repairing sectors.

Agreement was reached with the Government and the unions on a large number of restructuring measures in 1978. These include the merger of two ship-repair yards in Amsterdam, the closure of the shipbuilding division of P. Smit, a reduction of capacity at RSV Zware Apparatenbouw and cutbacks in the Rotterdam repair yards.

Restructuring costs were Fl 123.0m of which Fl 50m were drawn from existing provisions and Fl 70m covered by part of the Government's special Fl 150m aid package approved in March 1978. A further Fl 30m of this special aid has been used to cover losses on ship-owning activities. RSV will call a special shareholders' meeting on May 2 to approve a plan for the Government to take a 40 per cent shareholding in RSV's capital at a cost of Fl 80m.

## Increase in profits at Thomson-CSF

PARIS—Thomson-CSF, the parent company of the electronics arm of the Thomson-Brandt electrical group, has posted a net profit for 1978 of FF 123.1m (\$26.5m) against FF 123.1m in 1977.

The company intends to pay a net dividend for 1978 of FF 7.80 a share, as in 1977, but the dividend will be paid on a capital increased by some 1.42m shares during the year.

Thomson-CSF said that its 1978 net result was achieved after a major restructuring of the group's operations, against FF 196.1m in 1977.

Sales of the parent company totalled FF 76.95bn (\$16.8bn) in 1978, up from FF 6.11bn in 1977. Orders at the end of the year totalled FF 17.5bn, against FF 15bn in 1977.

Thomson-CSF did not publish its consolidated accounts, but said that the group's sales amounted to FF 11.93bn compared with FF 9.94bn in 1977.

The 1978 total includes sales of Lignes Telecommunications, which Thomson-CSF has a 49 per cent share in, and a comparable share in the basis, sales rose by 12 per cent, AP-DJ

## Optimism at Holmens Bruk

By Victor Kayfetz in Stockholm

HOLMENS BRUK, Europe's biggest newsprint manufacturer, writes in its annual report that "there are good prospects during 1979 to improve the economic result of the company's operations compared with 1978."

Last year's pre-tax profit for the Swedish pulp and paper group was SKr 58.5m (\$13.5m), up from SKr 40.2m in 1977. Turnover rose 24 per cent to SKr 1.78bn (\$409m) in 1978.

The company now expects at least a 10 per cent volume rise in production and deliveries of its two main products, newsprint and magazine paper. During 1978, plants ran at 35 per cent of capacity and output totalled 744,000 tonnes, against 638,000 tonnes the preceding year. The large excess stocks existing at the start of 1978 have been eliminated.

As reported earlier, the Board has recommended a dividend of SKr 7.50 per share, up from SKr 7.

## Earnings slide at Conti-Gummi

BY OUR FRANKFURT CORRESPONDENT

WEST GERMANY'S largest tyre maker, Continental Gummi-Werke, suffered a sharp slide in net profits last year from DM 20.2bn to DM 3.8m (\$2m).

For the seventh year in a row, therefore, shareholders will receive no dividend.

Turnover of the parent company increased by 2.4 per cent to DM 1.56bn. Group sales, on the other hand, rose by 3.1 per cent to DM 1.92bn.

Behind the group's problems lies a history of extremely tough competition from low-cost countries in the West German tyre market. All German tyre makers have been suffering to more or less the same degree and to a large extent, their answer to the competition—high technology, steel belted radial tyres—has defeated the purpose of the exercise with too long a life span for the products.

Like its competitors, Conti-Gummi has broadened its area of activities into technical rubber products and, at the same time, introduced stringent rationalisation measures.

ADAM OPEL, West Germany's second major car producer and part of the General Motors group

of Detroit, plans to spend more than DM 1bn (\$532m) up to 1982 on expanding its plant at Kaiserslautern, writes Andrew Fisher.

The investment, which follows a year of record output and domestic demand, will form part of the overall DM 5bn spending programme begun by the company in 1977.

Opel aims to increase the pressing, bodymaking, and engine production facilities in Kaiserslautern, in south-west Germany, and the workforce there will rise by some 3,000 to 7,000 people as a result of this and other investments.

The announcement of these plans comes shortly after Daimler-Benz revealed that it would spend around the same amount at its Bremen factory.

where it will build its new "small Mercedes" model.

Opel itself also has announced recently that it was investing DM 500m at its Russelsheim factory. The company has already expressed optimism about the current year after its record vehicle output in 1978 of nearly 960,000 vehicles and total deliveries to the West German domestic market of 620,000 units.

Also illustrating the continuing bright prospects for the German motor industry, which has been riding high for several years, was the news that Volkswagen intends to take on a further 2,000 workers in its German plants this year.

Since the start of 1978 the VW labour force in Germany has risen by 6,000 to 110,000.

## Italian chemicals group incurs further losses

BY PAUL BETTIS IN ROME

ANIC, Italy's second largest chemical company in terms of turnover, controlled by the state ENI Hydrocarbons Agency, has reported losses of L1,700m (\$212m) last year compared to a loss of L1,890m in 1977.

In a statement, the group said the 1978 losses included some L200m as a consequence of the liquidation of Italproteine, the joint venture in Sardinia between British Petroleum and anic.

The two partners decided to liquidate the venture following repeated delays by the Italian health authorities to give the go ahead for the plants' production of bioproducts for use as animal feed on a commercial scale.

Despite the setback in losses, Anic said debt interest totalling L850m last year, or the equivalent of 9 per cent of the company's net turnover continued to distort the chemical group's balance sheet together with the sustained losses of its troubled fibres activities.

Net sales increased by 13 per cent to L903bn last year, while consolidated turnover rose by 20 per cent to L1,200bn.

Apart from fibres, the other sectors to have been particularly hit last year were synthetic rubber production, as a result of depressed demand by

tyre manufacturers, and fertilisers.

Fertiliser production suffered again last year because of the Government's current pricing policy for this sector, the company said.

While performance of the base chemical sector remained disappointing, the secondary sector, including pharmaceuticals was generally encouraging. At the same time, the company confirmed that there were now signs of a recovery in the chemical sector.

Anic's turnover during the first two months of this year increased by 40 per cent compared to the same period last year following both an increased volume of sales and higher prices. Concurrently, however, raw material costs had increased sharply.

Anic has now launched a major group reconstruction programme, and some L600bn have already been earmarked to this effect. However, in view of the company's continuing heavy losses, Anic, in what has become a familiar ritual in Italian corporate finances, intends to propose at a forthcoming extraordinary shareholders' meeting to write-down the company's share capital to cover last year's loss and subsequently increase it to L255.2bn.

## Counter-offer for Yema

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS

INDICATIONS of French Government disapproval of Jaeger's bid for Yema, the Besancon-based watchmaking group, emerged yesterday in a counter-offer for the company from Jaz, the group put together with the help of Government finance.

The Jaz bid is roughly equivalent to Jaeger's, which is proposing a share and cash deal to give it a 35 per cent stake in Yema. It is the second time that Jaz has made approaches to Yema, which it would like to bring into its group in its efforts to create a significant French force in the industry.

Yema has so far responded coolly to the Jaz offer. In a joint statement with Jaeger, it says that talks are well advanced for the merger as soon as it receives official approval. A formal go-ahead from the authorities is necessary to cement the deal with Jaeger be-

cause it is 41 per cent-owned by VDO of West Germany. Up to now this approval has not been forthcoming.

Jaeger said yesterday that it remained optimistic about its chances of bringing off the deal with Yema. The company claims to be better placed than Jaz because it can bring considerable technical know-how based on its car instrumentation division, to the assistance of Yema.

The idea is to help the Besancon group to expand its activity in electronic watches. The affair has aroused fresh rumours that VDO may decrease its shareholding in Jaeger.

Although the suggestions have been in the air for some time, it is now being said that the French Government would be more willing to hasten the approval of the Yema merger if there was such a rundown in the German company participation.

## Dresdner Bank turns cautious

BY ANDREW FISHER

THE CONTINUED low level of interest rate margins, which kept profits under pressure in the first quarter, is prompting Dresdner Bank, one of West Germany's leading commercial banks, to take a cautious view of its prospects for 1979.

Dresdner also has its reservations about the state of the German economy, with Dr. Hans Friderichs, the chief executive and a former economics minister, expressing concern over price trends and the effect of the latest easing of the Deutsche-Mark on import prices.

Earnings of the bank benefited in the first three months from favourable profits on the trading side, he said. After the usual January sluggishness, credit uptake had recovered, with total credit volume now some 14 per cent above levels of 1978.

The bank boosted its total lending business by more than 11 per cent in the whole of last year to DM 49.34bn, while non-bank customer deposits advanced by 8 per cent to DM 43.3bn.

Dresdner Bank has already declared an unchanged DM9 dividend for last year, following an increase in earnings of the parent bank to DM 223m (\$118m) from DM 203m. Dr. Friderichs said that operating profits were up by 7 per cent in 1978—no figure was given for 1977—while second quarter profits were up by 1978.

The balance sheet total rose by 13 per cent last year to DM 70bn, with a 13.7 per cent improvement in the consolidated figure to DM 111bn. Including unconsolidated banks in the group, such as Dresdner Bank International in Luxembourg, overall business volume showed a 16 per cent gain to DM 137bn. The banks surplus on interest

earnings over interest costs went up by 8.5 per cent to DM 1.52bn, though actual rate margins slipped from 2.5 per cent to 2.4 per cent. Dresdner said these were too low in view of rising expenses and the need for extra risk provisions as business volume grew.

Elaborating on the bank's foreign plans, Dr. Friderichs said the Madrid and Hong Kong representative offices would be upgraded into full branches next month. Dresdner had opened a securities representative office in Tokyo, in addition to its branch there, and also planned a Malibu office.

Closer to home, Dresdner last month purchased control of Veive, Morins-Pons, the small Lyon-based French bank. In addition, it will expand its domestic branch network by opening around 20 new offices, mainly in medium-sized and small German towns.

# 1978 Annual Report Canadian Pacific Limited

**Highlights:** The past year was the best in the Company's history. Consolidated net income reached \$340.9 million, an increase of \$93.9 million over 1977. Per Ordinary share, earnings amounted to \$4.72, or \$1.31 more than in the previous year.

Dividends on the Ordinary stock were raised to \$1.10, from 95¢ in 1977. Of the 1978 dividends, 55.5¢ was the proceeds of dividends from Canadian Pacific Investments Limited, up 7¢ over 1977.

Almost every operation of the Company shared in the earnings growth, with CP Investments and transportation each providing approximately half of the increase over 1977. Income from CP Investments reflected that company's net gain of \$23.8 million on the sale of its holding of TransCanada PipeLines shares. In addition, earnings from iron and steel, oil and gas and forest products were all up substantially, and most other major operations contributed to the year's improvement. The notable exception was hotels, whose losses increased. In transportation, airline operations provided the largest increase, rail earnings in both Canada and the U.S. were at record levels, and the loss on tanker/bulk shipping operations was reduced. Miscellaneous income rose due to increased interest income and a gain on sale of an aircraft formerly leased to CP Air.

During the year CP Investments further broadened its earnings base through acquisition of Syracuse China Corporation of Syracuse, New York. Syracuse manufactures and markets chinaware and related products mainly for the food service industry in the United States and in Canada.

For 1979, planned capital spending of the Canadian Pacific group of companies exceeds \$1 billion for the first time. The amount is so high partly because of inflation, but mainly because of the growth the Company has achieved and the strong commitment it has to future growth. Projects comprising this large investment program include the creation of new capacity as well as replacement of the old. All are being undertaken with a view to strengthening the earning power of the subsidiaries and the parent company. Beneficial effects of the program will be widely felt throughout the economy as jobs are generated or sustained—both immediately and in the future—in many regions of the country.

The outlook for earnings in 1979 is that they will be at about the same level as in 1978. Given reasonable economic growth in the Canadian and U.S. economies, earnings from operations could increase enough to make up for the likely absence of a gain equivalent to that in 1978 from the sale by CPI of its TransCanada PipeLines shares. Changes—either upward or downward—in the value of the Canadian dollar would have an impact on the year's results. The outcome of labour negotiations could also have an important influence; the list of operations affected, although shorter than it was last year, includes such a key sector as the railway. A settlement with the

railway unions, which now appears within reach, would remove a major uncertainty.

Most of the signs with respect to commodities are positive. Prices for lead, zinc, gold and silver have strengthened. Demand for zinc has improved and markets continue to be favorable for newsprint, lead, steel and lumber. The only likely problem area is coking coal, which has been in excess supply for several years. Further expansion of real estate activities should contribute to improved earnings.

In transportation, CP Air should have a good year, but not as good as 1978, when circumstances were unusually favorable. Prospects for CP Ships are more encouraging than they have been for some time, but no dramatic turnaround should be expected in 1979. CP Rail will benefit from further growth in freight revenues and from being relieved of losses previously borne in respect of inter-city passenger services. Soo Line Railroad should match its excellent 1978 performance.

### Canadian Pacific Limited

Summarized Statement of Income	1978	1977	Increase or (Decrease)
Net income from:	(in millions)		
CP Rail	\$ 63.5	\$ 54.8	\$ 8.7
CP Trucks	1.5	0.8	0.7
CP Telecommunications	3.0	2.6	0.4
CP Air	20.0	3.3	16.7
CP Ships	(8.0)	(10.3)	2.3
Miscellaneous	20.5	7.5	13.0
CP Investments Limited	225.6	170.0	55.6
Equity in income of subsidiary not consolidated	14.8	11.1	3.7
Income before extraordinary item	340.9	239.8	101.1
Extraordinary item	—	7.2	(7.2)
Net income	\$340.9	\$247.0	\$93.9
Per Ordinary share:			
Income before extraordinary item	\$4.72	\$3.31	\$1.41
Net income	4.72	3.41	1.31
Dividends	1.10	0.95	0.15

### CP Investments Limited

Summarized Statement of Net Income	1978	1977	Increase or (Decrease)
(in millions)			
Oil and gas	\$125.0	\$110.2	\$14.8
Mines and minerals	44.1	41.1	3.0
Forest products	18.3	10.1	8.2
Iron and steel	46.7	23.0	23.7
Real estate	15.3	11.6	3.7
Hotels and food services	(15.0)	(4.7)	(10.3)
Finance	2.7	2.5	0.2
Other operations	7.4	4.4	3.0
Investment income	29.4	8.5	20.9
	273.9	204.7	69.2
Interest of outside CPI shareholders	48.3	34.7	13.6
Net income to CP Limited before extraordinary item	\$225.6	\$170.0	\$55.6

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Financial Times Tuesday April 10 1979  
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of \$1.1m in 1978  
Final accounts  
are due to be  
for the year  
which ended  
in March 1979  
The group's  
and its subsidiaries  
achieved a better  
performance.  
The only laggards in the  
group's operations were its  
computer bureau and its food  
and distribution specialist, Ben  
and Co., which continued to incur  
losses.  
Group profit attributable to  
shareholders after extraordinary  
items amounted to \$85.76m  
which is lower than the previous  
year's figure of \$86.73m.  
This results from the higher  
level of minority interests and  
extraordinary items due largely to  
the closure of some of Ben's  
loss making operations.  
Straits Steamship has declared  
a 20 per cent tax exempt dividend,  
which is slightly higher  
than the 16.8 per cent paid  
previously after adjusting for  
a one-for-four bonus issue last  
year.

# Higher dividend from Swire Pacific

By HUGH PEYMAN IN HONG KONG

SWIRE PACIFIC, one of Hong Kong's leading trading companies, raised its net consolidated 1978 profit by 75 per cent to HK\$324m (US\$65m). This was mainly due to a 63 per cent profit increase by Swire Properties and the strong performance of Cathay Pacific Airways, which benefited from high load factors, good yield and the strength of currencies in many of the countries in which it operates.

Swire raised its "A" share dividend by 11 cents to 33 cents making a total payout of 45 cents for the year on capital raised by a one-for-ten bonus issue against 32 cents in 1977. The final dividend on "B" shares also rose 50 per cent to 6.6 cents for an annual total of nine cents.

After its substantial 1978 growth, Swire, which besides its property and airline activities has interests in trading, hotels, engineering and ship repairing, said that growth in 1979 would be slower, as a result of the general economic background. However, the company believed both earnings and dividends would increase in the coming year.

THE HONG KONG Mass Transit Railway Corporation (MTR) has signed a US\$200m 10-year loan with a syndicate led by Manufacturers Hanover. The loan which is not guaranteed by the Hong Kong Government, is split into two tranches. For the first seven years the loan bears interest at 0.75 per cent above London Interbank Offered Rates (Libor) while in the final three years interest will rise to 0.375 per cent above Libor.

The MTR has also renegotiated a US\$400m loan signed in February 1978. The interest margin has been cut from 1 per cent over Libor to 0.75 per cent for the remaining nine years.

# Sharp upturn at Esso Malaysia

By Wong Sulong in Kuala Lumpur

ESSO MALAYSIA BERHAD recorded a sharp upturn in performance last year, with after-tax trading profits rising to 23.1m ringgit (US\$ 10.5m), compared with 6m ringgit in 1977.

In line with the good results, the company is increasing its final dividend to 35 per cent, consisting of 10.33 per cent exempted from tax under the provisions of the Pioneer Industries Act and 24.67 per cent of taxable dividend. This brings total dividends for the year to 45 per cent (of which 20.33 per cent is tax exempt), compared with 25 per cent tax exempt for 1977.

Mr. R. J. J. Kruizenga, the Esso Malaysia chairman, attributed the performance to three factors, namely the signing of a new and more profitable oil supply contract with the National Electricity Board since August last year, continued growth in refining and sale operations, and a foreign exchange gain of 4.5m ringgit arising from the depreciation of the U.S. dollar.

The company had also obtained Government approval to revalue its land and buildings, resulting in a surplus of 7.9m ringgit.

The company's refinery at Port Dickson processed 13.4m barrels of oil last year, a 12 per cent increase, while sales rose by 0.7m barrels to 14.4m barrels. Ammonia output increased 12 per cent to 48,800 tonnes and was an important contributor to profits.

# Advance at Straits Steamship

By H. F. Lee in Singapore

GROUP POST-TAX profit at Straits Steamship Company, a subsidiary of Ocean Transport and Trading of the UK rose 14 per cent to \$8.7m (US\$4m) for 1978. At the pre-tax level, profit, however, rose by 28 per cent to a record \$51.5m.

The group suffered from an abnormally high tax charge of \$7.1m, against \$4.6m previously, as a result of its inability to offset losses in certain subsidiaries against taxable profits in others, and of lower earnings from tax exempt shipping operations.

Group operating profit, which excluded the results of associated companies and interest charges, rose by 13 per cent, through a better performance in its traditional activities, particularly its property sector. Sales were marginally higher, at \$518.4m (US\$84m).

The group's associates, particularly William Jacks and those engaged in the oilfield, engineering and insurance activities, achieved a better performance.

The only laggards in the group's operations were its computer bureau and its food and distribution specialist, Ben and Co., which continued to incur losses.

Group profit attributable to shareholders after extraordinary items amounted to \$85.76m which is lower than the previous year's figure of \$86.73m.

This results from the higher level of minority interests and extraordinary items due largely to the closure of some of Ben's loss making operations.

Straits Steamship has declared a 20 per cent tax exempt dividend, which is slightly higher than the 16.8 per cent paid previously after adjusting for a one-for-four bonus issue last year.

# Union Carbide India to expand in high technology areas

By K. K. SHARMA IN NEW DELHI

UNION CARBIDE India, the subsidiary of Union Carbide of the U.S., has completed plans for expansion in areas of high technology and exports in order to be able to retain a majority foreign holding of 50.9 per cent. This level is now permitted under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) to companies wishing not to reduce the foreign holding to 40 per cent—provided they satisfy the Government that they are complying with high technology exports requirements.

Since Union Carbide has decided to take advantage of the new middle point, it has planned expansion and modernisation of petrochemical plant in Bombay at a cost of Rs 4bn (about \$500m) over a three-year period. It also expects to commission its mica-based pesticide project this year. The company has, in addition, plans to use offshore gas from oilfields in the western continental shelf for its plants.

According to the company's annual report, an investment of Rs 337m has been made in specialised high technology and export areas. This is about 76 per cent of its total investments since FERA became effective.

In 1978 the company's sales rose by 4 per cent to Rs 11.1bn (\$1.4bn) despite a suspension for four months of its chemical and plastic plant operations in Bombay. Sales of all its products, with the exception of chemicals and plastics, have risen.

Exports during the year rose to Rs 53.7m from Rs 50.8m in the previous year. Of this, shrimps—Union Carbide has diversified into deep-sea fishing as part of its new operations—accounted for Rs 44.4m. Some 500 tonnes of electrolytic manganese dioxide were exported to South East Asian countries.

Union Carbide earned a pre-tax profit of Rs 91.4m (\$11.3m), while profits after-tax amounted to Rs 50.4m compared with Rs 49.6m in the previous year. The dividend is unchanged at 16 per cent for the third year running.

Union Carbide proposes to issue 250,000 redeemable debentures of Rs 100 each carrying an interest not exceeding 11 per cent. This will increase its long-term resources for working capital requirements.

as part of its new operations—accounted for Rs 44.4m. Some 500 tonnes of electrolytic manganese dioxide were exported to South East Asian countries.

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# Southern Hydrocarbons equity issue

By K. K. SHARMA IN NEW DELHI

SOUTHERN Hydrocarbons is to enter the capital market on May 2 with an issue of 294,000 equity shares of Rs 10 each, partly to finance a Rs 22m (\$2.75m) project to manufacture items based on industrial alcohol.

The company plans to manufacture acetic anhydride and acetic acid with an annual capacity of 1,000 tonnes each, 900 tonnes of monochloro acetic acid and 3,000 tonnes of carboxy methyl cellulose annually.

The project is located in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu state, and the company hopes to start production by the middle of this year. Southern Hydrocarbons is owned jointly by the Tamil Nadu Government and Mr. R. Venkataswamy, and his associates who have separately subscribed 25 per cent of the capital, leaving 50 per cent with the general public.

The company expects smooth marketing of its new products, which are basic chemicals and serve as raw materials for a wide range of drugs and pharmaceuticals, made in centres such as Bombay, Madras and Bangalore.

# Matsushita sets bond terms

TOKYO—Matsushita Electric Industrial Company and underwriters have agreed to set the coupon rate of the ¥50bn (\$233m) non-mortgage convertible bonds at 4.4 per cent a year, a Matsushita spokesman said.

They also decided that the conversion price will be ¥738. The issue date is April 28. The face value of the bonds is ¥100 and the purchase value of a bond is ¥500,000, the spokesman added. Matsushita announced the bond issue on March 13.

Lead underwriters are Yamatai Securities, Nomura Securities, Nikko Securities and Daiwa Securities.

AP-DJ

# Consortium bank sets up in Seoul

By Ron Richardson

UNION de Banques Arabes et Francaises, a partnership between three French and 26 Middle Eastern banks, is to set up a branch in Seoul. The new office was approved recently by the Bank of Korea, the central bank.

The new institution will aim at increasing the financing available for the large volume of Korean business—especially in the construction industry—with the Arab world.

Last month the Dutch-based Algemene Bank opened an office in Seoul, bringing to 25 the number of fully operative foreign banks in South Korea. There are also about ten banks which have representative offices.

# INVESTMENT IN ISRAEL

# Plan to boost foreign share buying

By L. DANIEL IN TEL AVIV

AN APPROACH to facilitate foreign investment in Israeli companies—and particularly in industry—has been worked out by a Tel Aviv banker and international businessman, Mr. Benno M. Gitter, who is acting as special adviser to the Israeli Minister of Finance. In the past, foreign investors have either bought Israeli Government bonds or put relatively small amounts into investment companies, but Mr. Gitter has said that he has found a lively interest in the Americas and elsewhere in direct investment in Israeli enterprises by the purchase of substantial blocks of shares. This interest could be translated into tens of millions of dollars of new investment.

He attributed the new-found interest to the rapid expansion of the Israeli stock market during the past two years, the liberalisation of foreign exchange controls since end-1977, and the wish by some investors to diversify their portfolios.

In the past such foreign financial participation in Israeli industry has been hampered by the fact that popular issues have been heavily over-subscribed.

Mr. Gitter, who wants to develop merchant banking in Israel, feels that his plan offers a solution to private companies intending to go public within two or three years. Foreign shareholders buying into such a company would be guaranteed a registration on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange within a specified time and would be assured of getting a predetermined percentage of the issue when the company went public.

Asked how such investors could be sure of safeguarding the value of their foreign currency investments in the light of Israel's 50 per cent inflation rate, he pointed out that today any investment in shares has to compete with the yield obtained from the Israel Government's bond issues which are linked to the cost-of-living index. If a new issue is underwritten by the big banks this in itself would constitute a recommendation.

At the moment, institutional investors may generally order up to 40 per cent of any new issue. Under Mr. Gitter's plan, up to 90 per cent of the new issue could be made available to institutional and foreign investors (the distribution would be at the discretion of the issuing company). The foreign investor would form a corporation specially for such investments. Shares purchased by such a corporation would be held by a trust company in Israel for at least one year after which they would be released for sale at the owner's option. The foreign investors would also benefit from the discount given for private placements.

**An important announcement to our stockholders:**

Copies of the 1978 Annual Report of Citicorp can now be obtained from:  
Citibank N.A., 336 Strand, London WC2R 1HB, between the hours of 9.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday.  
Postal applications should be addressed for the attention of the Librarian.


**CITIBANK CITICORP**

**CLIVE INVESTMENTS LIMITED**  
1 Royal Exchange Ave., London EC3V 3LU. Tel.: 01-263 1101.  
Index Guide as at April 3, 1979 (Base 100 on 14.1.77)  
Clive Fixed Interest Capital ..... 156.31  
Clive Fixed Interest Income ..... 128.29

**ALLEN HARVEY & ROSS INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD.**  
45 Cornhill, London, EC3V 3PB. Tel.: 01-623 6314.  
Index Guide as at April 5, 1979  
Capital Fixed Interest Portfolio ..... 113.10  
Income Fixed Interest Portfolio ..... 104.50

**Sedgwick Forbes Bland Payne Group Limited**

J. HENRY SCHRODER WAGG & CO. LIMITED  
acted as adviser to  
SEDGWICK FORBES HOLDINGS LIMITED  
in the merger with  
BLAND PAYNE HOLDINGS LIMITED

 **Schroders**

**Thomas Tilling Limited**  
has acquired 100% of the outstanding Common Stock of

**CLECON Incorporated**

The undersigned initiated the above transaction and acted as financial advisors to CLECON Incorporated.

**Goldman, Sachs & Co.**  
**Golenberg & Co.**

April 10, 1979

**The Republic of Indonesia**  
**US\$ 38,250,000**

Medium Term Financing  
to finance a contract between

**P.T. Pupuk Kalimantan Timur**  
and  
**The Lummus Company Limited**  
for the construction of an ammonia/urea fertilizer plant in  
**East Kalimantan, Indonesia**

Managed by  
**Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited**  
with the funding and repayment guarantee of  
**The Export Credits Guarantee Department**

Provided by  
Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited  
The Chase Manhattan Bank NA  
Morgan Grenfell (Asia) Limited  
Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Berhad  
Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas  
The Tokai Bank, Limited

Agent Bank  
**Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited**

**Meccanica Finanziaria International S.A.**  
Luxembourg

**US \$50,000,000**  
Medium Term Loan

Guaranteed by  
**SOCIETA FINANZIARIA MECCANICA FINMECCANICA S.p.A.**

Managed by  
**Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited** Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino  
**DG BANK Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank**  
**Landesbank Rheinland-Pfalz und Saar International S.A.**  
**Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited**  
**Ultrafin AG**

Provided by  
DG BANK INTERNATIONAL Societa Anonima  
Morgan Grenfell Group  
Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited  
Midland Bank France S.A.  
Banco de Bilbao—London Branch  
Banque Commerciale pour l'Europe du Nord (Eurobank)  
Handelsbank N.W. (Overseas) Ltd.  
Jersey International Bank of Commerce Limited

Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino  
Landesbank Rheinland-Pfalz und Saar International S.A.  
Ultrafin AG  
Associated Japanese Bank (International) Limited  
Bank of Ireland  
DIE ERSTE osterreichische Spar-Casse  
Zentralsparkasse der Gemeinde Wien  
Italian International Bank Limited  
Monte dei Paschi di Siena

Agent Bank  
**Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited**



## Companies and Markets

## CURRENCIES, MONEY and GOLD

## WORLD VALUE OF THE POUND

The table below gives the latest available rates of exchange for the pound against various currencies on April 9, 1979, in some cases rates are nominal. Market rates are the average of buying and selling rates except where they are shown to be otherwise. In some cases market rates have been calculated from those of foreign currencies to which they are linked. Exchange in the UK and most of the countries listed is officially controlled and the rates shown should not be taken as being applicable to any particular transaction without reference to an authorised dealer.

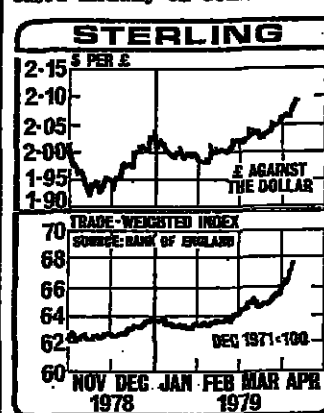
Abbreviations: (A) approximate rate; (B) basic rate; (C) commercial rate; (D) discount rate; (E) exchange rate; (F) financial rate; (G) gold rate; (H) government rate; (I) international rate; (J) local rate; (K) local authority rate; (L) local government rate; (M) local market rate; (N) local non-commercial rate; (O) local official rate; (P) local private rate; (Q) local public rate; (R) local rate; (S) local rate; (T) local rate; (U) local rate; (V) local rate; (W) local rate; (X) local rate; (Y) local rate; (Z) local rate.

PLACE AND LOCAL UNIT	VALUE OF £ STERLING	PLACE AND LOCAL UNIT	VALUE OF £ STERLING	PLACE AND LOCAL UNIT	VALUE OF £ STERLING
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Greenland (Danish Kroner)	11.0678	People's Rep. of China (Yuan)	2.36
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Guatemala (Guatemalan Quetzal)	2.0940	Poland (Zloty)	1.9850
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Haiti (Gourde)	10.47	Portugal (Escudo)	200.48
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Hong Kong (Hong Kong Dollar)	10.655	Qatar (Qatar Riyal)	3.76
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	India (Indian Rupee)	17.08	Romania (Leu)	16.66
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Indonesia (Rupiah)	1,535.00	S. Africa (Rand)	1.93
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Iran (Iranian Rial)	1,000.00	Spain (Peseta)	166.64
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Israel (Israeli Sheqel)	3.4836	Sweden (Krona)	4.66
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Italy (Lira)	203.636	Switzerland (Swiss Franc)	2.00
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Jamaica (Jamaican Dollar)	2.00	Taiwan (New Taiwan Dollar)	36.00
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Japan (Yen)	360.00	Tanzania (Shilling)	200.00
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Jordan (Jordan Dinar)	0.70	Thailand (Baht)	50.00
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Korea (South Korean Won)	100.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Kuwait (Kuwait Dinar)	4.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Laos (Kip)	200.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Lebanon (Lebanese Pound)	1,500.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Libya (Libyan Dinar)	4.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Madagascar (Malagasy Arianary)	200.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Malawi (Malawi Shilling)	200.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Malaysia (Malaysian Ringgit)	2.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Maldives (Maldivian Rufiyaa)	1.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Mali (Mali Franc)	200.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Mauritania (Mauritanian Ouguiya)	200.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Mauritius (Mauritian Rupee)	2.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Mexico (Mexican Peso)	20.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Morocco (Moroccan Dirham)	20.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Mozambique (Mozambique Escudo)	200.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Nauru (Nauru Dollar)	2.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Nepal (Nepalese Rupee)	200.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Netherlands (Guilder)	2.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Niger (CFA Franc)	655.954	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Nigeria (Nigeria Naira)	1.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Norway (Norwegian Krone)	4.66	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Oman (Omani Rial)	2.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Pakistan (Pakistan Rupee)	10.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Panama (Panamanian Balboa)	1.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Papua N. Guinea (Papua New Guinea Kina)	2.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954
Algeria (Dinar)	10.2542	Paraguay (Paraguayan Guaraní)	200.00	Togo (CFA Franc)	655.954

## Pound &amp; dollar remain firm

STERLING and the U.S. dollar continued to improve in yesterday's foreign exchange market, with good demand seen for both currencies. There was little indication of any intervention by the Bank of England, although the strength of the dollar probably rendered this unnecessary. The pound's trade-weighted index reached 67.8 at the close compared with 67.5 at noon and in the morning and a previous close of 67.4.

Against the dollar sterling opened at \$2.0930-2.0940 and eased initially on dollar demand.



The Irish punt showed a weaker tendency against most currencies and eased to \$2.0190 from \$2.0371 against the dollar. It was also weaker against the D-mark at DM 3.9450 (DM 3.8510), the French franc at Fr 8.9060 (Fr 8.9240), the lira at L1703 (L1713), the Danish krone at Kr 10.67 (DKr 10.70), and the Dutch guilder at G 2.1350 (G 2.1485). The punt was steady against the Belgian franc although the latter may have been given support.

Frankfurt—The dollar was fixed at DM 1.9040 (DM 1.9583) and the Bundesbank sold around \$30m after the U.S. unit touched its best level since mid-December last year. Sterling was also sharply firmer at DM 3.9820 compared with DM 3.9400 pm Friday.

Tokyo—The dollar lost ground against the yen and closed at ¥214.40 compared with ¥215.375 on Friday. Trading was affected by strong rumours that the Bank of Japan is likely to increase the discount rate sometime this week.

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES	Current rate	% change from central bank	% change from divergence
Belgium Franc	39.4582	+1.77	+1.21
Danish Krone	7.06322	+0.39	+0.35
German D-mark	2.50084	+1.25	+0.71
French Franc	6.55954	+0.32	+0.32
Dutch Guilder	2.72777	+0.59	+0.08
Italian Lira	2.03638	+0.25	+0.21
Irish Punt	1.21215	+1.25	+0.75

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES				
Apr. 9	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutsche Mark	Japanese Yen
Pound Sterling	1.	2.094	3.390	449.0
U.S. Dollar	0.478	1.	1.908	214.4
Deutsche Mark	0.251	0.525	1.	112.5
Japanese Yen 1,000	2.227	4.664	8.886	1000.
French Franc 10	1.085	2.293	4.369	491.7
Swiss Franc	0.276	0.579	1.103	128.1
Dutch Guilder	0.233	0.488	0.934	104.6
Italian Lira 1,000	0.566	1.185	2.368	284.1
Canadian Dollar	0.415	0.869	1.655	186.2
Belgian Franc 100	1.589	3.326	6.338	713.3



BUSINESSES FOR SALE

Warehousing and Road Haulage Business for Sale

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- 206 foreign road permits for France, Portugal and Italy, which could be transferred to a future purchaser.
- Fleet of 15 36/40 tonnes GVW articulated units, most of which are under three years old, plus 37 trailers.
- Full management team available.
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For further information please contact:  
Mr. N. M. Cooper, Touche Ross & Co.,  
27 Chancery Lane, London WC2E 1NF.  
Telephone 01-242 9451.

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LONDON W1X 1LA.  
01-497 6401 01-734 3522

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Company situated in the North of England wishes to dispose of its plastics trade moulding interests. The assets for sale will include freehold multi-storey factory of approximately 60,000 square feet situated on a three acre site. Present turnover approximately £1m per annum. Sale is going concern to include freehold factory, machinery and stock for £275,000.

For further details please write to J.H. Owen.

Thomson McLintock & Co  
70 Finsbury Pavement London EC2A 1BX

WASTE PAPER RECLAMATION BUSINESS

Old established company engaged in processing and packaging of range of waste paper. Well equipped modern freehold works—London. T/O approximately £1m p.a. with good orders. Offering potential.

Full details to: Principals only. Box G.3663, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

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Six floors plus basement and lift  
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R. J. Shepherd & Associates  
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BANK CURRENTLY UNDER INCORPORATION AND LICENSING CARIBBEAN

Contract of sale prior to completion considered.  
TEL: LONDON 384 5420

**FRENCH ROAD HAULAGE BUSINESS FOR SALE**  
Major British Group wishes to dispose of small (35 employees) French haulage business based in the South of France. Major activities: petroleum products, international transport and bulk raw materials. Sound profit record. Write Box G.3667, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

BUSINESSES WANTED

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Public Company with large funds available wishes to purchase for cash or cash and shares substantial and successful motor trading companies holding major franchises. Management to remain if desired. All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Write: Box G.3658, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

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Major U.S. corporation with significant European interests is interested in acquiring well-established and successful businesses in above fields in order to continue its expansion. Ideal situation where management is experienced and willing to continue.

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PEABODY INTERNATIONAL  
6 Duke of York Street, London SW1A 6LA  
Telephone Number: 01-839 4843

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Gresham Trust Ltd., Barrington House, Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HE  
Tel: 01-606 6474  
Birmingham Office: Edmund House, Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 3EW  
Tel: 021-246 1377

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Representative would examine proposals of

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[illegible]

<b>ier Fund</b>	<b>Kemper Oldman Ltd.</b>	
Motors-Damc, Luxembourg.	25, Mill Street, EC2V 8JE.	01-
Notes-Damc, Luxembourg.	Females.....	1-374 1 509 +
Notes-Damc, Luxembourg.	Bondholders.....	Pr 70 125 85
Net asset value April 4	Cash Assets Cap.	£248 19 164 374 +
<b>Harvey &amp; Ross Inv. Mgt. (C.I.)</b>	<b>King &amp; Shaxson Mngrs.</b>	
Cross St. Heller, Jcy. Ct. 0534-37341	1, Charing Cross St. Heller, Jersey.	(053)
Eog.Fd. .... £12.22 12.24 .. 12.21	Valley Hse., St. Peter Port, Guerny.	(053)
<b>Net Securities (C.I.) Limited</b>		

[illegible]







**INSURANCE—Continued**

## PROPERTY—Continued

**INVESTMENT TRUSTS—Cont.****FINANCE, LAND—Continued**[illegible]

## INSURANCE

E.U.S. A	20	Spillers	512	6	Milnes	
Geordian	24	Tesco	6			
G.K.N.	24	Thorn	22		Charter Cons.	16
Hawley Sida	22	Trust Houses	27		Cons. Gold	17
House of Fraser	15	Tube Invest.	30		Rio T. Zinc	27

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